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# Herald Eribune.

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper

London, Tuesday, April 14, 1998

### A New BankAmerica: Biggest of U.S. Banks NationsBank Drives \$62 Billion Merger

By Mitchell Martin onal Herald Tribune

NEW YORK - Having decided that there is safety in big numbers, two pairs of American banks announced \$90 billion worth of mergers Monday. bulking up to compete more efficiently in an international industry that increasingly emphasizes size.

In the bigger of the two deals, Na-tionsBank will pay about \$62 billion of its stock for BankAmerica Corp., creating the largest U.S. bank ranked by assets, of which it would have about \$524.72 billion. It would be the second-

largest takeover in corporate history.
The other transaction will see Banc
One Corp. swap \$28 billion of its shares to acquire First Chicago NBD Corp., creating the fifth-largest U.S. bank and the largest in the Midwest, with assets of \$230 billion.

The announcements follow by a week the news that the financial-services conglomerate Travelers Group Inc. would buy Citicorp in a stock swap worth about \$74 billion. In all of these cases, the idea seems to be to offer a large variety of financial services to banking customers. Bigger is indeed better," said

Hugh McColl, the NationsBank chief executive, announcing the deal at a news conference. The combined institution, which would keep the BankAmerica name, would have about 8 percent of U.S. domestic deposits and aims to be "America's bank, at home and all around the world," he said.

Mr. McColl, 62, would be chairman of the oew company and main-tain his office in Charlotte, North Carolina. BankAmerica's 50-year-old chairman, David Coulter, is to be president of the merged company and keep his office in San Francisco.

Although the institutions involved in the deals are largely domestic, the recent merger frenzy relates to international competition, according to Gregory Root, president of Thomson Bank Watch, the international bankrating agency. "With the euro and the year 2000 problem, you need the mass," he said, noting that banks must make increasingly large invest-

ments in their computer systems. Mr. Root said that for differing reasons, banks in Europe and the United States were now able to amalgamate. The situation in Asia, he said, is unsettled following the recent economic and currency turmoil, although he said the region provided fertile ground for expansion by U.S. institutions.

In Europe, banks have suffered from high cost structures, both for labor and to maintain more branches than justified by market fundamentals. Both situations are changing, he said, in part because of the single European Union market and the upcoming currency union,

American banks, meanwhile, had been hamstrung by laws that discouraged branches in more than one state until the 1980s and the federal Glass-Steagall Act, which limits their activities in the securities business. Interstate banking is now allowed, and the Glass-Steagall restrictions have been eroded by regulators, although the overall shape of federal banking legislation remains unclear.

See BANKS, Page 13

#### The World's Largest Mergers and Acquisitions Size in billions of U.S. **Travelers** Citicorp **NationsBank BankAmerica** MCI Communications \$41.8 WorldCom Inc. Sandoz AG Ciba-Geigy AG Mitsubishi Bank Bank of Tokyo Union Bank of Switzerland First Chicago Banc One RJR Nabisco Inc. Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. Mitsui Bank Ltd. Taiyo Kobe Bank \$23.0

### A Dirty Secret in Mexico

Nynex Corp.

Senator's Raid on Government Wiretap Center Yields Evidence of 22 Others Around Country

By Molly Moore Washington Post Service

Bell Atlantic

MEXICO CITY -- Just after 9 on a recent night, Senator Layda Sansores Sauroman banged on the front door of a concrete house in the center of the southern Mexican city of Campeche. What she discovered when the janitor opened the door unleashed a scandal that has ripped open the underbelly of Mexican politics.

A back room was crammed with electronic cavesdropping equipment. Another room contained files stuffed with thousands of pages of transcripts of telephone conversations of politicians, journalists and private citizens.

To be sure, the intimate details of love affairs, corruption and extortion are damaging enough. But the raid on the government espionage center, which netted financial records of the center and seven years of tapes and transcripts, has exposed extraordinary details of the government's bugging operations against its citizens, political foes and prominent business leaders.

papers, documents, recordings and computer files," Senator Sansores, 52, said in an interview at her home in Mexico City. "Seven years of my life were there, tracked in detail," said the federal senator, a member of the op-position, left-of-center Party of the



In recent weeks, more than a dozen other cases of government espionage have been uncovered across the country, including hidden microphones and cameras found in the offices of the new government of Mexico City and inter-

Big Brother — spying on its citizenry, its perceived enemies and frequently, on some of its own agencies and officials.

"Everything I say and do, I assume

bugged. Mr. Fox, of the right-of-center Na-

See MEXICO, Page 7

ceptions of the telephone calls of a state

governor. The discoveries - and the willingness of the targets to go public with evidence - have confirmed many Mexicans' long-held suspicion that their government has acted as an omnipresent

that I am being spied on," said Vicente Fox, the governor of the state of Guanajuato, in response to the recent discovery that his telephones had been

## Japan Treads Edge of a Recession Economy Likely to Contract in First Half of Year, IMF Forecasts

By Alan Friedman

WASHINGTON - Japan is probably already in a recession, and its economy is unlikely to show signs of economic growth until the second half of this year, the International Monetary Fund said Monday.

The Japanese economy probably contracted in the first quarter of this year and will probably contract again in the second quarter," said Michael Mussa, the Fund's chief economist, later confirming specifically that this meant that Japan probably would be in a recession

ative growth in the first half to slightly positive growth in the second half," he added. But to sustain growth, he said, Tokyo probably must plan on fiscal stimulus measures in 1999 that go be-yond the \$75 billion package of public

spending and tax cuts introduced last

Japan is one of several economies whose IMF growth forecast was revised downward Monday because of the impact of the Asian financial crisis.

The Fund said the global effects of the crisis would very likely be "more



BELFAST HARMONY — Protestants marching in Belfast on Monday avoided confrontation with a Catholic neighborhood, Page 6.

# Airbus Set for a Dogfight

It Reorganizes for Coming Battle With Boeing

By Joseph Fitchett International Herald Tribune

PARIS - Airbus Industrie is squarg off with Boeing Corp. for an industrial clash on a titanic scale, and their battle for customers, partners and profits is likely to reverberate through airlines

and aircraft suppliers around the world. Airbus, the European aerospace consortium, is flying high these days, while Boeing has been going through some

First of two articles

turbulence. But now Airbus is moving to become a more nimble competitor by reorganizing its ramshackle partnership into a more traditional management structure to operate along purely com-

Executives, government officials and analysts interviewed recently — most of whom asked not to be quoted by name — all agreed that there were still unanswered questions about the ability of Airbus, even under new management, to soar free of European government ties and compete uninhibited by political

Boeing says that its production and inventory problems are behind it, and analysts agree that the Seattle-based company seems close to digesting Mc-Donnell Donglas, the competitor — and only remaining U.S. airliner manufac-

turer — that it took over two years ago. But now that it is Boeing's only rival, "Airbus is likely to discover that Boeing has some nasty surprises for it" in terms of commercial pressures, said the head of a multinational company that does business with both manufacturers. Airline passengers, as consumers,

stand to benefit from the intensified competition, because neither company intends to roll over. Besides the spur to design and build better planes, airlines are already finding that they can talk down the price of new orders.

Both firms are already global giants. Boeing, a symbol of U.S. global

prowess in large-scale high technology, is the second-largest U.S. aerospace company, behind Lockheed Martin, with annual sales running around \$18 billion. Airbus, the flag-carrier for European industrial integration, has conquered a 40 percent share of the market and has no intention of stopping there. Based in Toulouse, France, it is already Europe's biggest business, with \$10 billion in an-

Airbus executives say they have icked up the momentum lost by Bocing. Even though Boeing, over the last two decades, has sold nearly 10,000 airliners, twice as many as its rival, Airbus notes that half of its 7,500 orders were logged in just the last seven years as its elegantly designed wide-bodies and growing family of jettiners gained credibility.

Airbus also has found its way into very major market, finally including Latin America last year, and won orders from every major airline — including

the U.S. majors.

Airbus's own success bas played an important part in sharpening the competitive climate for the company. Its mounting market share hastened the demise of the only other major airliner manufacturer, McDonnell Douglas, where release the program of the program whose takeover last year by Boeing reduced the suppliers' ranks to "a duopoly for at least the next 10 or 15 years," said Jerrold Lundquist, an analyst with McKinsey consultants.

The struggle for the top position may turn out to be a real dogfight. Despite the industry's billions in sales, price-cutting has hit both companies' profits. Boeing reported a loss last year for the first time. and Airbus saw its earnings drop by nearly two-thirds, even though it sold

more planes than ever.
The competitive pressure has forced Airbus to envisage its most expensive investment; the A3XX, a 555-seat superjumbo, bigger than the 747. Boeing's monopoly on jumbos gave it a cash cow and a guaranteed slot in almost any airline fleet, and matching Boeing across

See AIRBUS, Page 13

vised its world economic growth forecast for 1998 to 3.1 percent, down from its forecast of 4.3 percent six months

Growth will recover to 3.7 percent in

1999, it said.
Although the IMF said the turmoil that erupted last year in Asia had abated since January, it warned in its twiceannual World Economic Outlook that "considerable uncertainty remains about the resolution of the crisis and its global repercussions."

The impact of the Asian crisis on North America and Western Europe will be mild, it said, with a moderate anti-inflation effect that could even help to reduce the risk of overheating in the U.S. economy.

We may have some upside potential for North America and Continental

Europe," Mr. Mussa said.
The Fund upgraded its forecast slightly for the United States, predicting 2.9 percent growth in 1998 and 2.2 percent next year.

The European Union, now enjoying a spreading recovery, was forecast to grow by 2.8 percent both this year and

Among the big Continental economies, France will lead the pack in 1998 with 2.9 percent growth, the Fund said, while Germany will expand 2.5 percent and Italy 2.3 percent. Economic growth in Britain will slow to 2.3 per-

during the first six months of 1998. severe" than initially forecast. It re-"We think Japan can turn from neg-vised its world economic growth fore-While expressing confidence that 11 While expressing confidence that 11 nations will introduce Europe's single currency, the euro, in January, the IMF offered two warnings related to Eco-

> markets and about deficits. 'The failure to reform Europe's labor markets is clearly the Achilles' beel of the EMU project," the report declared.

nomic and Monetary Union, about labor

Flemming Larsen, an IMF economist, said that making Europe's job markets more flexible and more mobile would be "extremely important for the success of EMU.

The IMF also warned that even though the 11 candidates for the euro had brought their deficits below 3 per-

See FORECAST, Page 13

	The Dollar	
New York	Monday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
DM	1.8238	1.8235
Pound	1.6681	1.6707
Yen	129.555	131.20
FF	6.112	6.1123
4	The Dow	

	0,112	0.1120
10	The Dow	
	Monday close	previous close
+17.44	9012.30	8994,86
	S&P 500	
change	Monday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
-0.98	1109.69	1110.67

IMF Forecasts	for Asian	Economie:	S	
Asia as a whole	Real GDP 1997 1998 6.7%		Consun 1997 3.9%	ner Prices 1998 R.D/s
Bangladesh	5.5	10 March 1	5.1	400
China	8.8	770	1.5	20
India	5.6	352.3	6.1	
Indonesia	5.0		6.6	44.35
Japan	0.9		1.7	209
Malaysia	7.8	250	2.7	(C) 50
Pakistan Source: Boden News	3.5	51 <b>6.5</b> 7 (7)	12.5	-120

### U.S. Says Rich Foreigners Rig Immigration Program

By Eric Schmitt New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - A federal program that grants wealthy foreign investors permanent residency in the United States is being manipulated, the Immigration and Naturalization Service says, with foreigners pooling their money so that most of them obtain residency without making the full invest-

The program initially envisioned wealthy foreigners investing directly in American businesses. But in recent years, a cottage industry of consultants has sprung up to pool money in creative ways from the foreigners, who under the 1990 program must invest at least \$500,000 in an American business that creates or saves jobs. In return, the immigrants receive a permanent residency

visa, or a green card, the coveted document that is the first step toward American citizenship.

A six-month government review concluded last month that many of the consulting firms that link the immigrants to business opportunities in the United States have exploited loopholes in the regulations to improperly guarantee rates of return and limit investor risk. Under some consultants' plans, for example, foreigners would only have to pay about one-third of the required \$500,000 investment, with a promissory note for the rest that eventually

would be forgiven.

"These plans do not meet either the spirit or the letter of the law established by Congress," said Russell Bergeron, a spokesman for the immigration service.

See INVESTORS, Page 7

#### AGENDA

### Agency Finds Iraq in Nuclear Compliance

UNITED NATIONS, New york (Reuters) - Iraq has complied with all requirements to declare and destroy its nuclear weapons capability, the International Atomic Energy Agency reported Monday. Iraq must destroy its chemical, biological, ballistic missile as well as nuclear programs before sanctions on exports, such as oil, can be lifted.

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The IHT on-line	www.iht.com

## Baby Boomers on the Recline

Dad's Chair Glides, Swivels and Rocks for a New Generation

By William L. Hamilton New York Times Service

When Tracy Chaney kicks back, it is not be-

cause she's lazy.
"I just bicycled for about four and a half hours today," said Ms. Chaney, 35, a physical-education teacher. In her Las Vegas living room, she relaxes to music and watches ber fireplace from

one of her two new La-Z-Boy armchairs. Nearly 7 million other Americans - men and women, young and old - took a similar position last year.

Civilization is in recline.

We're getting old; those recliners are looking real good," said Nancy Butler, a staff writer for Furniture Today, an industry journal.
"As a baby boomer, more concerned with comfort than ever before, I'm ready to put a recliner in my home, and I wouldn't have

The state of the s

been caught dead doing this 10 years ago." Like Ms. Chaney, 45 percent of last year's buyers of recliners in the United States were aged 34 to 52. Because that group, 77 million strong, is considered the prime American furniture-buying public, the recliner need only overcome its stubborn image problem to conquer the American

Looks aren't everything. Today's model tries harder. It not only reclines, it glides, swivels and rocks. It answers the telephone and connects to the computer. It offers heat and massage shake and bake" to industry insiders.

Moreover, the king-of-his-castle's recliner is no longer alone: It has sired a category called 'motion furniture'' that accounts for almost half of the \$17 billion U.S. business in upholstered

See CHAIR, Page 6



Relaxing in a New York showroom. Recliners are enjoying a revival with the 32-54 set.

### Press Critics Try to Derail Pulitzer Candidates

By Felicity Barringer

FEW YORK — Targets of journalistic scrutiny have filed an unusual number of complaints to the Pulitzer Prize board, challenging the facts and context of articles and trying to knock them out of the running for the awards, which will be announced Tuesday. At least five such challenges reached the

juries judging this year's entrants, said Seymour Topping, the administrator of the Pulitzer board at Columbia University. Mr. Topping said that the board had changed its rules in 1994, permitting jurors to see such challenges because it "reduces drastically the likelihood that after the pro-

cess is over we make discoveries about an entry that might affect the board." The Pulitzer Prizes are widely considered journalism's highest honor. It is unclear whether any entry's chances suffered as a result of a challenge.

Complaints about adversarial coverage are as old as journalism itself. But the challenges this year reveal new sophistication among critics of the press and a willingness to confront journalists in one of the arenas they hold most dear.

The Pulitzer process has often been a magnet for controversy within the industry; some publications have contended that a prize went to an entrant whose work was based on their own, and some jurors have complained that their recommendations were ignored by the board, which has the final say on the awards.

But lohbying from outside is a relatively new phenomenon.

This year, a Pennsylvania state senator who sits on the governing board of a Philadelphia school for poor teenagers raised objections about a series published by The Philadelphia Inquirer on the board's financial dealings. A Washington State trade association of fertilizer manufacturers challenged the accuracy of a Seattle Times series about the reprocessing of hazardous wastes and beavy

In a case first publicized by the newspaper itself, the Boston Police challenged The Boston Globe's series on police misconduct in a Feb. 6 letter to each of the 19 members of the Pulitzer board.

In its series, The Globe, which is owned by The New York Times Co., discussed abuses ranging from false testimony by police officers to the ap-parent cover-up of a police beating of a plainclothes

Other challenges involved The San Francisco Chronicle's examination of the way state agencies handled the release of some mentally handicapped adults from institutions, and the work of The Tennessean in Nashville on environmental dangers for areas around Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where an in-



The effect of challenges on the already difficult dynamics of the Pulitzer jury process makes some editors worry.

cinerator burns toxic waste from the production of

Among journalists, particularly top editors and former Pulitzer jurors, the reaction to the development had several layers. Without exception, six former Pulitzer jurors said they would welcome such input. Without exception, the editors of the series being challenged said they thought the juries and the board, both dominated hy working journalists, could readily gauge a challenge's merit. It is the effect of challenges on the already difficult dynamics of the jury process that makes

some editors worry.
"I don't think the reaction of a subject matters in the early rounds," said Cynthia Tucker, the editorial page editor of The Atlanta Constitution and a former Pulitzer juror. "But in the later rounds you're coming down to 10 or 20 entries which all look pretty good."

"I would never back away from a piece because a subject didn't like it; that would have the opposite effect on me," she added, a sentiment echoed by Walter Rugaber, the president and publisher of The Roanoke Times in Virginia, who is a board mem-

But Ms. Tucker added, "If the subject can point out something that the reporter did wrong and at that point elimination is pretty painful, then I could say,

'Let's toss that one and move on.' " Other editors expressed concern that the growing number of challenges could bog down the process. And, they pointed out, the rules already require newspapers to include both published and unpublished protests as

part of any entry. "I think that challenges are legitimate," said Matt Storin, the editor of The Globe, who has served as a Pulitzer juror, "but I think they should be handled in a different way."

The juries are almost overburdened by the number of entries that they have to consider, Mr. Storin added. "The juries are almost begging for a reason to eliminate any

Challenges so far have tended to focus on in-depth investigations, though challenges to other categories are not barred. The number

of challenges being sent to juries is still small compared with the 1,580 entries this year. In addition to seven prizes for books, music and drama, prizes in 14 categories are awarded to journalists.

In most cases, juries composed of five people take about two days to winnow down scores of entries to three finalists, which are presented to the board.

The board chooses one — or sometimes two. In rare cases, it decides to make no award, and it sometimes moves a candidate from one category to another — from public service to explanatory journalism, for in-

In the challenges to The Seattle Times and The Philadelphia Inquirer, the critics said that material important to the context of the story was

omitted by the newspapers.

Critics also raised factual questions and complained that their views were not adequately rep-

ete Fretwell, a spokesman for the Far West Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association, a trade group in Spokane, Washington, that challenged The Seattle Times's series, said, "When you talk about the Pulitzers, you're talking about something that should not only be ground-breaking, it should by definition be the epitome of accuracy, balance, fairness."

The editors involved defended their reporters'

work as accurate and complete "My own sense of this," said Mike Fancher, the editor of The Seattle Times, "is that the Pulitzer jury panels and the board include veteran newspaper people who have experienced criticism of oumalistic work in their own backgrounds. They know bow to read and understand this kind of criticism and factor it in."

Robert Rosenthal, editor of The Philadelphia Inquirer, added, "I don't see a downside to challenges unless they're given more weight than they should be." Last-minute challenges, he said, could

# Missile Inquiry Clouds Wallow it America's China Policy

By Jeff Gerth New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - In the 1992 presidential election, many of the United States' aerospace manufacturers backed Bill Clinton. But when Mr. Clinton took office, he immediately disappointed some of them on a key issue, barring them from launching their most lucrative satellites on China's low-cost rockets.

The aerospace companies' counterattack was vehement - and eventually effective. After a lobbying campaign that included personal appeals to the president by Michael Armstrong, then chief executive of Hughes Electronics Corp., Mr. Clinton gradually came to take the industry's side.

But there was an important caveat: The companies had to keep a tight rein on sophisticated technology sought by

the Chinese military.
So, in May 1997, the administration was jolted by a highly classified Pentagon report concluding that scientists from Highes and Loral Space & Communications Ltd. had turned over expertise that significantly improved the reliability of China's nuclear missiles, officials said.

The report, whose existence had been secret, prompted a criminal investigation of the companies, which officials said was undermined this year when Mr. Clinton approved Loral's export to China of the same information about guidance systems. The chairman of Loral, Bernard Schwartz, was the largest personal donor to the Democratic Party last year.

An examination of the administration's handling of the space case, based on interviews with administration officials and industry executives, illus-trates the competing forces that buffet Mr. Clinton on China policy.

In this instance, the president's desire to limit the spread of missile technology was balanced against the commercial interests of powerful U.S. businesses, many of which were White House allies and substantial supporters of the Demo-

cratic Party.

'From the Chinese point of view, this was the key case study on how the administration would operate on con-tentions issues," an administration expert on China said. The message, the official added, was that administration policy on issues like the spread of weapons and human rights abuses 'could be reversed by corporations.''
The White House denied any political

interference in the issue. "I am certainly not aware that our policy has been influenced by domestic political considerations," said Gary Samore, senior director for nonproliferation and export controls at the National Security Council, "From where I sit, this has been handled as a national security issue: seeking to use China's interest in civilian space cooperation as leverage to obtain nonproliferation

The administration's China policy has come under intense scrutiny in the last year. Congressional investigators have been examining whether China sought to influence policy through illegal campaign contributions to Demo-cratic candidates in 1996. That connection, first suggested in intelligence

reports, was never proved.

The handling of the satellite case raises questions about the influence of

American contributors on China policy, according to officials.

Since 1991, the aerospace industry has divided its political contributions equally between Democrats and Reput licans. In the same period, however Loral and Hughes tilted toward the Democratic Party, giving \$2.5 million to Democratic candidates and causes and \$1 million to the Republicans.

Administration officials say the con-tributions played no role in the decision to permit China to launch U.S. sate.

"The government has to balance risks — the risk in not letting American companies get their satellites launched by the Chinese, which would reduce our high-tech advantages, and the inherent high-tech advantages, and the innerent risks of technology transfer in it. James Rubin, the State Department spokesman. "That's why we impose spokesman. "That's why we impose and are consistent of the control of the such strict safeguards, and we are de-termined to investigate and use our law

to prevent that possibility. The criminal investigation of Hughe and Loral has its roots in 1989, when sanctions were imposed after the mas sacre of pro-democracy demonstrators near Tiananmen Square, requiring a presidential waiver for satellife lames. ings. Eleven such waivers have been granted by Mr. Clinton and his pe-

granted by Mr. Clinton and his pre-decessor, George Bush.

But in late 1992, U.S. intelligence discovered that Chinese companies had sold missile technology to Paking raising tensions in the subcontinent.

In the first months of Mr. Clinton's

POLITICAL NOTES

Toto Decide Soun ... presidency, Democrats and Republicans in Congress pressed the admiristration to take action. Mr. Clinton to sponded with sanctions that barred US: companies from sending military good to any of the Chinese concerns involved in the Pakistan deal. The move had the effect of halting several pending and future U.S. satellite deals because the Chinese rocket-launching company wis one of the companies under sanctions.

The sanctions stemming from the Pakistan sale were lifted in late 1994 China promised to curb missile sales at other countries. Still, the satellite in dustry had not achieved a major objective. So, in 1995, Mr. Armstrong soft another letter to Mr. Clinton, signed by Mr. Schwartz, Loral's chairman and guing that the Commerce Department should become the primary licensing authority for satellite exports, an indnstry executive said.

The debate not only affected national security but also had enormous commercial implications. The businesses that rely on satellites are highly compeutive, and European companies were more than willing to take advantage of China's low-cost services. Without the Chinese, U.S. companies faced log waits to get their satellites into our

because of a shortage of rockets.

Finally, in March 1996, Mr. Clinical shifted major licensing responsibilities and the shifted major licensing responsibilities. for almost all satellites to the Commerce Department.

Since the inquiry began, Beijing and States.

Washington have been exploring even more space cooperation. Last fall, Pies ident Jiang Zemin visited the United States and stopped at a Hughes site in talk about satellites. In advance of Mr. Clinton's trip to China in June, the alministration is seeking a broader agree, ment with Beijing on space coope-

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UMOUSINE

### As England Starts to Mop Up, Snow Surprises France

TRAVEL UPDATE

HOTEL METROPOLE

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LONDON - Rainstorms and the England over the weekend, but the de- Nice on the Cote d'Azur. luge eased Monday and a huge mopping up operation was under way.

"We are cautiously optimistic that the worst is now over," a spokesman for the Environment Agency said. "But river levels will remain high for the next 48 hours and it will take some days to get back to normality."

The army was called out to help with the emergency effort, and soldiers were recalled from Easter leave. The flooding caused chaos for tens of thousands of people, and thousands had to be rescued hy boat and helicopter.

On the Continent, hail, snow and storms swept across France during the weekend, causing seven deaths on the roads and threatening more chaos as people made their way home Monday after the Easter holiday. In the southwest region of Landes,

four people were killed Sunday in a car accident during a fierce hailstorm. The previous day, two people died on the roads in the same area

Another motorist died late Sunday in one of numerous accidents on the highway between Paris and Rennes.

An 11th-century stone clock tower in Saint-Quentin-sur-Indrois in central France was destroyed by a bolt of light-

Early Bird

Special

Snow fell Monday in Paris and worst flooding in 150 years left at least throughout much of the rest of France, four people dead in central and eastern reaching as far south as the outskirts of

> The British Environment Agency said the flooding in England, which began early last week, had been caused "monsoon" levels of rain.

> 'These are the worst floods this century, indeed for 150 years, and while the water levels are falling we are still concerned about some areas," Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott said Sun-

Crime in Florida Drops

in Florida dropped 2.6 percent last year

and the murder rate hit its lowest level

statistics released by the Florida De-partment of Law Enforcement. The

murder rate fell 5.8 percent from 1996 to 6.9 killings per 100,000 population. A series of nine murders of European

tourists five years ago stained the image

of the state as a prime tourist destination

and damaged an industry then worth \$30

billion a year, but the sector recovered

since 1933, officials said.

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MIAMI (Reuters) - The crime rate

It was the sixth straight annual drop in the crime rate in Florida, according to

day as he visited parts of the Midlands. One of the towns he visited was Stratford-upon-Avon, where waters rose 8 feet (2.5 meters) in two hours, flooding homes, businesses and The Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

On Sunday, the river Nene overflowed in Peterborough, 75 miles (120 kilometers) north of London, Some places were under two feet of water and more than 20 homes were evacuated, but the Environment Agency said the city had not suffered as badly as had been feared. Late in the day, all roads were passable.

strongly. In 1997 Florida had 47 million visitors who spent \$41 hillion.

Turin Shroud on Show

Shroud of Turin, which according to tradition was used to wrap the body of Christ after the Crucifixion, will be on

show to the public, starting Saturday until June 14, at the Museum of the Holy

Shroud in Turin. Nearly 900,000 people

have already made reservations for the

exhibition. The organizers are expecting

3 to 4 million visitors, including Pope

John Paul II, who is planning a trip to

officials said.

service said.

Striking pilots at Ali Nippon Airways Co.

forced the cancellation of six international flights

Monday as their protest moved into an eighth day,

The haze from forest fires raging in the nearby

island of Borneo affected

Singapore on Monday as

winds turned easierly,

Singapore's meteorological

Cairo airport officials

opened a new runway Mon-day to accommodate the

wide-bodied planes with a capacity of 1,000 passen-

gers that are expected to be in use by 2005. (Reuters)

(AFP)

 $(\bar{A}FP)$ 

Turin on May 24.

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - The

 Heavy snowfall brought winter back to Moscow, snarling traffic and causing several road accidents.

On Sunday, 16 centimeters (6.4 inches) of snow fell in the city. Israelis crowded beaches and airconditioned malls Monday to seek

refinge from temperatures that soared above 38 degrees centigrade (100

Paramedics advised people to drink at least 1.5 liters of water every half hour to avoid dehydration. (AP, AFP)

### **WEATHER**

# Forecast for Wednesday through Friday, as provided by AccuWeather

Europe

Windy and chilly in the Southwest Wednesday in the Southwest Wednesday in northern and wastern Seoul Wednesday to Friday and Friday The certain and southern Rockes will be cold with rain and anothern Germany. In the Notherlands will be cold with rain and anothern Germany. In the Notherlands will be cold with rain and northern Germany. In the Notherlands warmer Friday. A rainy day and northern Germany. In the Notherlands warmer Friday. A rainy day in the will be cold with some or the Northern Wednesday, then another Texas Wednesday, then some income friday. A rainy day in Wednesday, then mild with some sunstance day; some may be severe day, some may be severe day, some may be severe day, some may be severe will be warm and northern lially will be warm and human and northern lially will be warm and human with a shower possible. Mainly dry in Vetnam.

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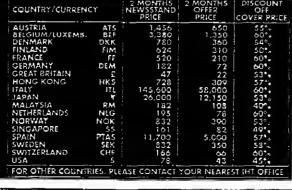
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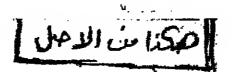
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States Wallow in Welfare-Reform Statistics By Barbara Vobejda and Judith Havemann Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Eighteen mooths after federal lawmakers dramatically changed the nation's welfare program, it is becoming clear that the mass in such disarray that it is impossible to determine whether the law is working. Hampered by serious computer problems and

other complications, the federal government has been mable to determine whether states are succeeding in getting as many welfare recipients into jobs as the law requires.

How the issue is ultimately resolved is critical, not only because it is the sole means by which federal lawmakers can gauge which states have effective programs and which need attention, but also because gens of millions of dollars are riding on the answer.

If states fail to move a certain proportion of their raseload into jobs, for example, they could be docked millions of dollars a year. State officials also fear they could be unfairly denied huge federal bonuses be-cause the money must be distributed on the basis of

other state data that they argue is far from reliable.

For example, the Health and Human Services Department will award \$200 million in a "high performance bonus" this year that will be shared by those states that are most successful at getting welfare recipients into jobs where they stay and advance. But states can define their caseloads differently and choose which information to submit to compete for the bonus.

The states are concerned that many performance standards "are being based on data systems that are not capable of producing good information," said William Waldman, the New Jersey welfare director who was named last week to head the American

of data the government requires states to collect is in such disarray that it is impossible to determine the determine to report hasic information about a portion of their we're already strapped, we can't ask the staff to caseloads, most of it aimed at ensuring that states gather additional information." were paying the correct amount of benefits to recipients. Under the 1996 law, which gave the states greater flexibility in designing welfare programs, much more information is required, including who receives housing subsidies, medical assistance and child care and who is working or is enrolled in training courses.

Under the temporary rules in effect, states are least 3,000 families on their caseloads. But under proposed guidelines to take effect later this year, that number would rise to 178.

Among state officials, the information-gathering ocess has become one of the most pressing issues their welfare efforts.

Elaine Ryan, director of legislative affairs at the association of welfare agencies, said that when she organized a session on these technical questions at a meeting of state directors last month, she expected that a dozen states would show up. She was

Ms. Ryan said the federal government had been unable to give timely or clear guidance about exactly how to report information, what definitions to use and what rules to follow. She said the Health and Human Services Department did not tell states what information to collect until last September, but then required them to collect it retroactively to July. "I do wonder what the heck they are doing," she said.

The Alabama welfare reform director, Joel Sanders, said his state had given up competing in two of the four categories on which the "high-performance bonus" will be hased. "We'll just lose our chance in those areas," he said. "When

The transition into this new world of welfare is not simply a matter of computer mishaps, but a larger question of how to balance competing interests: the need to track a new social policy against the danger of placing burdensome mandates on states to collect detailed information.

Some members of Congress argue that the federal government knows too little about what is told to report 67 pieces of information each for at happening to the millions of families who have left the rolls in recent years.

As responsible policymakers, I would think we would want to know how many of these families are reaching economic self-sufficiency," said Senator Paul Wellstone, Democrat of Minnesota, who offered an unsuccessful amendment requiring the federal government to report on the fate of former recipients. "The fact of the matter is, very few states can tell me. No one knows."

"They are asking for too much," said Margarete Gravina, a spokeswoman for Michigan's Human Services Department. She said the federal government had estimated that Michigan would spend 9,283 hours a year compiling the data under the welfare law. But when state officials looked at the requirements, they figured a more realistic number was 51,052 hours annually.

"We're going to be spending time collecting data, rather than on creating opportunities that would benefit families," she said.



IS EVERYBODY READY?— President Bill Clinton blowing a whistle to begin the 120th annual Easter Egg Roll on the south lawn of the White were handcuffed without a House as an Easter hunny looked on attentively. struggle.

#### Away From **Politics**

 The percentage of teenagers reporting gangs at their schools has nearly doubled since 1989, and more studeots reported being victims of violent crime at schools where gangs were present, the Education and Justice departments reported.

 An Amtrak passenger train crashed into cars from a freight train that had derailed on an adjaceot track, injuring at least 16 people in Conway, Pennsylvania.

 Almost 24 hours after his escape from a maximum-security prison, the authorities spotted Jay Sigler and an accomplice cruising along a highway in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The two men turned their car into an alley and plowed into a passing car, killing its Christopher

### POLITICAL NOTES

### Jones to Decide Soon on Appeal

WASHINGTON — Paula Jones will announce Thursday whether she will seek an appeal of a federal jndge's decision to dismiss ber sexual misconduct lawsuit against President Bill Clinton, her spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman, Susan Carpenter-McMillan, said Mrs. Iones had already decided whether to file an appeal of the ruling April I by Judge Susan Webber Wright, who concluded that Mrs. Jones's nearly four-year-old civil lawsuit was with-

But Ms. Carpenter-McMillan declined to divulge Mrs. Jones's intentions, saying instead that she would announce her decision at a news conference in Dallas.

Advisers of Mrs. Jones, 31, a former Arkansas state worker, have said in receot days that they believed she would seek an appeal of the ruling by Judge Wright. She rejected all of the claims stemming from what Mrs. Jones said was an encounter with Mr. Clinton in a hotel suits In Little Rock, Arkansas, in

May 1991. Mrs. Jones has until May 1 to file an appeal.

Her legal team, based in Dallas, was described as being amhivalent abont an appeal. The lawyers, who have not been paid fees for their work, would have the most to lose in time and effort if an appeal failed because they would be paid only if Mrs. Jones woo at trial. Her lead lawyer, Donovan Campbell, was unavailable for comment.

But leaders of the cooservative Rutherford Institute, which is paying Mrs. Jones's legal expenses, have quietly lobbied her to go forward. John Whitehead, the president of the institute, which is based in Charlottesville, Virginia, has said in recent days that he believed Mrs. Jones would appeal.

### Strong Anti-Tobacco Bill Vowed

WASHINGTON - The Clinton administration and members of Congress are vowing to pass strong anti-tobacco legislation even though the tobacco industry walked out of the legislative process and threatened to fight such a hill in court. Tobacco companies said last week that the settlement proposal reached in June with state attorneys general was dead" and that they were abandoning attempts to work out

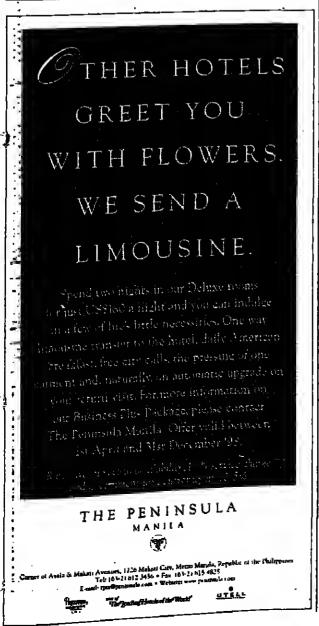
legislation based on that deal. Despite the walkout, "We will get hipartisan legislation this year," the Health and Human Services secretary. Donna Shalala, said Sunday. "There's no question about it because

Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, who sponsored the leading tobacco bill in Congress, said, "I'm optimistic that we can get this done hy this summer. Noting that the White House and public health advocates

have complained that his hill is not tough enough while the industry has said that it cannot live with his bill, Mr. McCain said, "I think we may be well-positioned."

### Quote/Unquote

President Clinton, before hlowing the opening whistle Monday to welcome thousands of children to the White House lawn, where they rolled Easter eggs: "This is the only thing every year, no matter what else happens, I know I will do





There have been dark clouds of ecanamic uncertainty hovering aver Malaysia. We Malaysians expect the picture ta clear. In due time. With an aptimism that is barne aut af faur decades af incredible ecanomic growth the world has been witness to.

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> And bounce back we will. How can we be so bullish about it? Because we've overcome other adversities before And we'll do it again.

### **MALAYSIA Bullish on Bouncing Back**











### ASIA/PACIFIC

### Food Aid Seems to Help Children in North Korea

### **But a UN Director Cites Distribution Flaws**

By Elisabeth Rosenthal New York Times Service

BELJING — Young children in North Korea appear considerably better nourished than they did a year ago, pre-sumably as a result of international food aid, the executive director of the UN World Food Program said after a four-

day trip to that hunger-stricken nation.
But the director, Catherine Bertini, criticized North Korean officials for failing to cooperate fully with her agency, which solicits and distributes most of the aid to the nation of 23 million people. In comments Sunday, she said that food donations would be scaled back if North Korea did not allow more widespread monitoring of how donated food was used.

Several reports, including one issued Saturday by the group Doctors Without Borders, have suggested that food aid earmarked for the general public is being eaten or stockpiled by officials and

"Clearly the aid has had a positive and beneficial impact," said Ms. Bertini. But she added, "The issue is access, and if we don't have access, then

we will have to cut back." Although Ms. Bertini said that a serious food shortage continues in North Korea, she emphasized that children she saw in schools and day-care centers were generally far less sickly and emaciated than those she saw on a visit a year ago. She credited the almost 1 million tons of food aid that have poured into the country, most of which has been

set aside for children under age 6. But she cautioned that there were still many cases of malantrition among children, And she said that nntrition problems remain serious for the rest of the population — who must rely on their

wits for what government food distri-hunon has been unable to snpply. "Many people are extremely thin, with some exhibiting a sickly pallor," she said, AI one hospital maternity ward she visited, she said, doctors told her

that for every 10 babies born recently, six were underweight and three of those died shortly thereafter — a staggering infant mortality rate if extrapolated to the entire nation.

Ms. Bertini noted that the hospitals she visited were still without antibiotics and many items of equipment, as they were a year ago. Last year, she said, North Koreans told her that many people believed that going to the hospital with an illness was pointless, because of the lack of medical supplies.

She said that people were once again filling hospital beds. Since the start of the food aid, some of which has gone to hospitals, sick people "go to the hospital to eat," she said.

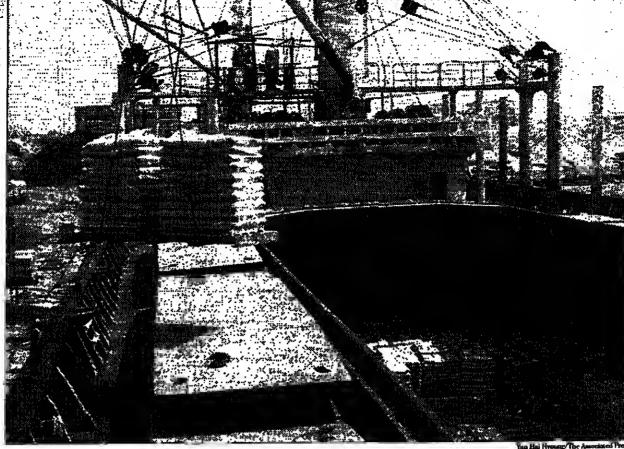
Her sober assessment with its hints of progress contrasted with the far direr report Saturday hy the doctors' group, which was based on interviews with North Korean refugees who had crossed into China. The doctors' report included grisly tales of village roads lined with corpses and hungry parents eating their

children in desperation. These disparate accounts, within just 24 hours, further confused the debate about the serionsness of the food situation in North Korea, possibly the

world's most secretive nation. While no one doubts that there is widespread hunger and malnutrition, the question remains whether there is massive starvation as well.

Ms. Bertini said that the refugees' statements, which have received frontpage coverage in some Asian newspapers, were a source of concern to her agency. But she said the agency's monitors "have not seen anything like what we've read in the newspapers." Some food experts believe that the refugees exaggerate problems or report rumors instead of things they have personally

witnessed or experienced.
"Some say there are 3 million dead, others say there's just a state of bad nutrition," said one aid expert who has worked in the region. "But we really don't know; we have to be careful."



Flour, rice and other aid being loaded Monday on a ship at Inchon, South Korea, for shipment to the North.

### The Koreas: Talking at Cross Purposes

South Focuses on Reuniting Families, but North Puts Famine Issue First

BELIING - South Korea said Monday that talks with North Korea needed to produce a deal to reunite families split by the Korean War, but the North reportedly called on Seoul to provide food aid first.

The third day of talks between the hitter rivals — their first direct government-to-government contact in four years — ended with no agreements.

But the chief South Korean negotiator said the two sides were trying to be flexible. "Today's meeting has not made progress in narrowing the differences be-tween the two sides," Jeong Se Hyun,

deputy minister of the South Korean Uni-fication Ministry, said after the talks. He indicated that the Beijing round of

negotiztions could end Tuesday with or without a breakthrough on famine aid and political issues. North Korean negotiators may want to finish before the Communist country's national day holiday Wednesday.
"It is possible that, even in the ab-

sence of a tangihle accord, we end tomorrow's session agreeing only to meet again," Mr. Jeong said.

North Korea, in its third year of famne, wants 100 million tons of fertilizer to help revive its mismanaged agricultural sector. Sonth Korea wants Pyongyang to agree to reunite families separated since the 1950-53 Korean War, exchange envoys and reactivate a liaison office in the border village of

"The fact that we are willing to talk again tomorrow shows that our position is negotiable," Mr. Jeong said.

Asked whether reuniting families was a condition for providing fertilizer donations to the North, Mr. Jeong said

Seoul wanted to resolve all the issues including divided families — at the same time. Aid to the often hostile North is a tough sell among South Koreans, who have been hit hard hy the Asian financial crisis.

"Despite unprecedented distress, we are willing to help North Korean compatriots by giving not only fertilizer but, if necessary, seeds," the conservative Chosun Ilbo newspaper said in an editorial. "South Korea's demands are not at all unreasonable,"

Chun Kum Chul, the head of the North Korean delegation, indicated Monday in an interview with South Korea's official Yonhap News Agency that Seoul should first provide the fertilizer before progress can be made on other issues. "Reciprocity is not giving one thing in exchange for one thing," Mr. Chun said. "If one side does something good, other issues can be resolved. That is reciprocity."

On Monday, China announced it would donate 100,000 metric tons of grain and 20,000 tons of chemical fertilizer to North Korea. (AP. Reuters)

### Pope's Army A A Noble Lead U.S. and UN Push Malaysia **And Indonesia** On Expulsions

KUALA LUMPUR - The United Nations and the United States stepped up pressure on Malaysia and Indonesia on Monday over immigrants from a restive province on Sumatra who say they face persecution if deported dip-

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said it wanted to know the fate of more than 500 Indonesians who were repatriated from Malaysia last month before deciding whether 22 immigrants in Kuala Lumpur deserve a ylum.

In Jakarta, Foreign Minister Ali Al-

atas said the Indonesian illegal immi-grants in Malaysia seeking asylum should be deported.

"They are not being chased," Mr. Alatas said. "They can come back. We believe they are not people who have a right to call themselves political refugees They are illegal immigrants and

possibly seeking better economic con-ditions," he said, adding that Indonesia and Malaysia have an agreement on illegal migrants. "They entered without permits, so they should be deported.".

A refugee commission official in Jakarta said the agency would soon seek permission from the Indonesian govemment to visit Aceh Province to learn what happened to the deportees.

The U.S. ambassador, John Malott,

wrote to Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia over the weekend to urge Kuala Lumpur to let the commissioner assess the claims of Acehnese who say they would be mis-treated if sent back, diplomats said.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International said in a report this month that the Acehnese deportees were being held incommunicado at Rancung military detention center in Aceh.

Malaysia has begun deporting thou-sands of immigrants who flocked there during boom years but are no longer needed because of the economic slow-

Separately, eight Indonesian illegal immigrants who scrambled over the walls of the U.S. Embassy last week in Malaysia began informal talks Monday with UN representatives investigating their requests for political asylum.

The State Department has said the illegal aliens who faced deportation will remain under American protection until the UN inquiry is complete, an embassy spokesman said. (Reuters, AP)

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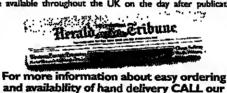
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### China Drills for High-Tech War

BEIJING — China has launched "comprehensive military drills" to prepare the People's Liberation Army to fight high-technology regional wars, the official Xin-hua press agency said Monday.

The nationwide drills involved all hranches of the armed forces, Juliua quoted army sources as saying. "The comprehensive military drills represent another milestone" in the army's modernization drive, it said. Defense Minister Chi Haotian was quoted as saying at a

training course on the application of technology in modern

warfare that high-ranking officers should learn about sci-

ence and technology to speed modernization. (Reuters) 'Red Tide' Kills Hong Kong Fish

HONG KONG — A massive algae bloom known as 'red tide' has killed 1,500 tons of farmed fish in Hong Kong, a government official said Monday. As environment workers disposed of rotting fish, Hong Kong warned people to keep out of the water as the algae

appeared off several popular beaches. Joseph Sham, acting assistant director of fisheries at the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, said that the algae type was gyrodinium and that the red tide was the most serious he had seen.

### Hindu Pilgrimage Near Climax

HARDWAR, India — More than 3 million Hindu worshipers filled this holy city Monday in a pilgrimage touted by organizers as the largest in the world.

Officials reviewed safety measures as they prepared for the 5 million visitors expected Tuesday, the climax of the event, on the banks of the Ganges. Leeladhar Jaguri, chief spokesman for the organizers, said 25,000 police and troops had been deployed for the Mahakumbh pilgrimage. About 30 people were crushed to death during the previous festival in Hardwar. The event, in

### which pilgrims bathe in the river to wash away sins, is beld in the Himalayan foothills city every 12 years. (AFP) Envoy Seeks Subcontinent Talks

NEW DELH! — The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Bill Richardson, is expected to urge India and Pakistan to reopen a dialogue during his swing through

the subcontinent this week, diplomats said Monday. Tension between the two countries mounted last week after Islamabad said it had test-fired its longest-range missile, drawing a sharp reaction from New Delhi, which accused China of providing Pakistan with the technology.

New Delhi officials said there was no specific agenda
for Mr. Richardson's visit to India, which begins Tues-

### day. He travels on to Islamabad on Thursday. (Reuters) U.S. Staff Asks to Leave Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei — The U.S. Embassy in Brunei has sought permission from Washington to temporarily send staffers out of the smogchoked capital for health reasons, Ambassador Glen Robert Rease said Monday.

Nearby wildfires, fueled by the worst drought in 30. years, have cast blankets of smoke over the kingdom on the northern coast of Borneo island. The eye-and-throatstinging smog has sent thousands to hospital emergency rooms, complaining of asthma-like symptoms.

Winds from fire-swept Indonesia brought smoke to neighboring Singapore as well Monday. No health advisories were issued, but the Pollution Standards Index rose to 78, its highest level this year.

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### **EUROPE**

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# Pope's Army Needs A 'Noble' Leader

Swiss Guard Post Pays \$30,000

By Alessandra Stanley New York Times Service

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April 18. V . A 115 To . A programme in the

Carlotte .

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ROME - Wanted: Swiss gentleman with military experience to lead the world's smallest army. Must be 5 feet the Vatican gates to gawk and 9 inches or over and Roman snap pictures of the Swiss Catholic. Should be noble.

The Swiss Guards, the colhave defended the Pope and the Vatican gates since the 16th century, are in want of a suitable commander, which has dragged on for five months, has become a baffting mystery inside the Vatican and beyond.

The vacancy seems to be sack of Rome in 1527, they due to more than a hureauspratic lag in the Vatican per-sonnel office. The difficulty in ing - candidate is yet another tiny reflection of how some of hy the modern world.

The honor, once fiercely apartments, coveted by Swiss aristocrats. noblemen and commoners alike, the salary is uninviting. reportedly about \$30,000 a

As one leading — and who took himself out of the Swiss Embassy in Rome, put it: "I have a good joh in Bern, For family and financial rea- idays, the guard has been

sons, I could not consider it. Not only on Easter Sunday, when more than 100,000 pilgrims and tourists flood St. Peter's Square, hut every day, hundreds of tourists gather at

Guards. Their plumed helmets and orfully dressed soldiers who red, yellow and blue dress uniforms - the Medici fam-

ily colors - and 7-foot (2meter) pikes have changed leader. And the search for a linle since the 16th century. Today, though, they carry tear gas for crowd control.
Originally, they were mercenaries. After defending Pope Clement VII during the

were invested as the Pope's personal army. Now, the work is mainly ceremonial. finding a qualified — and will- hut the Swiss Guards, dressed in navy blue doublets and berets, direct the traffic through the most ancient traditions of the Vatican City's gates and the Holy See are being eroded keep a 24-hour-vigil at the night curfew, and if you want door of the Pope's personal

Since the 1970s, the army has lost some of its luster. To has had trouble filling the lower ranks with unmarried Swiss Catholics who demonstrate, as the recruitment brochure puts it, "irreproachable character," and are willing to middle-class - candidate observe the strict discipline of both the army and the church. running, Bruno Capelli, a At full strength, the guard former military attaché at the numbers 100, but there are currently two vacancies.

During some summer hol-



Since the 1970s, the Vatican has had trouble filling the ranks of the Swiss Guards.

ican, the guards live in an insular world.

Some of today's guards find the isolation hard. When asked if he liked his job, one young Swiss guard said: "Not really. We have a midto go to discotheques or pick

up girls, it's not great."

Like any army or church
department, today's guards have had their share of scandals and internal disputes. Two years ago, two members of the guard were arrested by the Rome police for disorderly behavior after watching a soccer match in a bar. Martin Utz, 50, a former

captain in the Swiss Guards, said he was passed over for promotion because he was a

forced to dress seminarians in drummed out of the service. Forestry Department in Luthe guard uniform to fill the Officers are expected to be cerne. "My family has given gaps. Even within the Vat- married. He fought to stay in. hut after an appeal to the Pope failed, he eventually bowed to what he described as a "vow of absolute obedience."

He blames his fellow Swiss officers, not the church, for his ouster. And he is skeptical about the younger generations of his countrymen. "These days," he said, "who serves out of honor?"

not seem to be answering the

contributed 11 commanders he had no interest in prolonging the family tradition.

'I am far, far away from any such joh," said Mr. Pfyffer, an engineer in the Swiss

11 commanders and that is enough for the rest of time." For now, the guards are be-

ing led by Lieutenant Colonel Alois Estermann, 44, who was appointed acting comwhen Commander Roland Buchs retired early in October, for what he described as "family reasons."

Colonel Estermann, who is under consideration for the The Swiss upper classes do joh, is an inside favorite. But the fact that he has not yet been appointed has given rise Bernhard Pfyffer von Alt-ishofen, 49, whose family has clergy and the Vatican prefer an outsider, and are even over the last 300 years, in-cluding his father, Franz, said birth.

Twenty-seven of the 30 guard commanders have been aristocrats. "An aristocrat is preferable," Colonel Estermann said with a shrug.

three or four or more different

### Yeltsin and Duma Opponents Won't Budge on Appointee

MOSCOW - President Boris Yeltsin and his Communist opponents stood their ground Monday in a battle over who should be Russia's prime minister, squaring up for a show- indicated he was considering some of the down in which Parliament could be dis-

Mr. Yeltsin refused to bow to demands to second and possibly a third vote in the State Duma, the lower house, which overwhelming rejected the former hanker Friday.

Ignoring hints of compromise by Mr. Yeltsin on other issues, the Communists and their Agrarian and leftist People's Party allies in the chamber declared they would oppose Mr. Kiriyenko in the second round of voting due late this week.

The Communist Party leader, Gennadi Zyuganov, said the presidium of the People's Patriotic Front of leftist forces decided "to vote against the candidacy of Sergei Kir-iyenko as a person unsuitable for the post of Russian prime minister.'

Mr. Yeltsin and the Duma are now on a collision course in a baole that Mr. Yeltsin says is harming the economy. But there is still a chance for deputies to turn away from a showdown, as they have done in the past

Many parliamentarians say Mr. Kiriyenko, 35 and plucked from relative obscurity when Mr. Yeltsin dismissed the government on March 23, is too inexperienced to be prime

If the Duma rejects Mr. Kiriyenko three times, it will automatically be dissolved under the constitution, and Mr. Yeltsin will be required to call a parliamentary election. Elections are otherwise not due for 18 months. Neither side shows any sign of backing

down over Mr. Kiriyenko, although Mr. Yeltsin hinted he would be ready to compromise over minor members of the cabinet. There will be no other candidate," Mr. Yeltsin said in televised comments as Mr. Kiriyenko sat silently beside him at the start of

talks in the president's office. If proposed Kiriyenko and I will stand hy of the prime minister.

him to the end," the president said.

Despite his tough talk, the 67-year-old president made it clear that he wanted to find a way to avoid dissolving the Duma. He

names the political factions in the chamber have proposed to be in the government. But you would say I was strange if I said withdraw Sergei Kiriyenko's candidacy for a all of these candidates will get in, 'he added, again ruling out Communist demands for a full coalition government.

Most of the key posts are already settled, such as the Finance, Defense, Interior and Foreign ministries.

The leaders of some Duma factions have said they might hack Mr. Kiriyenko if he unveiled his planned line-up now or offered cahinet posts to members of their party.

Mr. Yeltsin said he had agreed to consult with the Duma's speaker, Gennadi Seleznyov, a Communist, on Tuesday, although Mr. Seleznyov has said he will ask Mr. Yeltsin to withdraw Mr. Kiriyenko's candidacy.

In another attempt to assuage the Duma, Mr. Yeltsin said he had told an aide to consider deputies' other concerns, apparently over housing and perquisites they receive in Moscow. But he made it clear that such benefits would come only after Mr. Kiriyenko

was confirmed. Many deputies are wary of an early election, which would put their seats and their parliamentary privileges at risk.

Only 143 of the 450 Duma members backed Mr. Kiriyenko on Friday and he faces a struggle to get the 226 votes he needs in the second vote.

Real power in Russia lies with the president. But if the head of state is incapacitated, the prime minister stands in and takes over control of the trigger to Russia's nuclear arsenal.

Despite the parliamentarians' reservations about Mr. Kiriyenko, Mr. Yeltsin said he would not accept any proposals to change the constitution to make the leader of Parliament's upper house the nation's No. 2 instead

#### BRIEFLY

#### Russian Parliament Gets START-2 Treaty

submitted an amended version of the longstalled START-2 arms control treaty to Parliament on Monday, and this time it seemed likely it would pass.

the strategic nuclear arsenals of the United as the earliest date for new elections. States and Russia.

York last fall, Russia would have five additional years to destroy its long-range missiles. Parliamentary leaders now say they expect the treaty to be approved. in resubmitting the agreement, Mr.

Yevgeni Primakov and Acting Defense Minister Igor Sergeyev as his representatives to shepherd the treaty through Pargovernment.

#### Romania's New Leader Will Push Privatization

structuring of hig utilities among top pri- health, reports said.

parties - Christian and Social Democrats, Liberals and ethnic Hungarians - to hrief them on the program, which party negotiators completed over the weekend. Parliament, dominated by centrists re-

expected to endorse his proposed cahinet gnosed as having bronchitis. and program Wednesday. The program includes demands by Mr. since retiring in 1995 following his second

War II with Social Democrats' insistence prime minister.

The Associated Press

TIRANA. Alhania - Two British dip-

lomats were shot and wounded during a rob-

bery hy a masked gunman on the outskirts of

Tirana, an Interior Ministry official said Mon-

First Secretary Catherine Jones, 41, and

Vice Consul David Bicker, 49, were returning

taurant oo nearhy Dajti Mountain when the

Ms. Jones, who was wounded in the arm,

and Mr. Bicker, wounded in the abdomen, were taken to a Tirana hospital and released

to Tirana on Sunday afternoon from a res-

shootings occurred, the official said

Ministry's director of public order.

on tough free-market reforms, and ethnic Hungarians' calls for greater education and language rights for the minority. (Reuters)

#### MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin New Turkish Elections Possible in March '99

ANKARA - An aide to Prime Minister The treaty, signed by Mr. Yeltsin and Mesut Yilmaz said Monday that the gov-President Bill Clinton in 1993, would halve erning Motherland Party saw March 1999

Yasar Dedelek, a senior member of the The U.S. Senate ratified it in 1996, but Motherland Party, was quoted by the the State Duma, the lower house of Russia's Anatolian News Agency as saying that "the Parliament, so far has refused to approve earliest date for elections is March 27, 1999." The party had earlier signaled Oc-However, under accords signed in New tober as the most likely time for polling.

Ork last fall. Russia would have five ad-

favored elections no sooner than next March, hut said local and general polls could be held together at that time.

Mr. Yilmaz is due to meet Deniz Baykal. Yeltsin said it 'corresponds to the interests of Russia.' He named Foreign Minister possible date for elections, which are not legally due until 2000. Mr. Baykal has threatened to withdraw his support from the

### Karamanlis's Condition Worsens After Attack

ATHENS - Former President Con-BUCHAREST — The draft program of stantine Karamanlis, Greece's most revered Prime Minister-designate Radu Vasile's elder statesman, was unable to breathe new coalition government, leaked to the without mechanical assistance Monday in a press Monday, sets privatization and re-serious hlow to hopes he could regain his

Mr. Karamanlis, 91, was placed on a A government official said that Mr. respirator Sunday after suffering a heart Vasile met leaders of the centrist coalition attack. According to media reports, his lungs failed to work when he was ternporarily unbooked from the device. Hailed for restoring democracy in 1974

after seven years of military dictatorship, Mr. Karamanlis was hospitalized last week united in Mr. Vasile's coalition formula, is after suffering chest pains. He was dia-Mr. Karamanlis has been in failing health

Vasile's Christian Democrats to return term as president, ending a 60-year political property seized hy Communists after World career that included a record six terms as **2** British Diplomats Shot in Albania

The embassy was closed Monday for the

The shooting occurred after the gunman

Easter holiday.

driving, Mr. Bare said.

## Judge on War Crimes Tribunal Battles Apathy

By Charles Trueheart Washington Post Service

THE HAGUE - After five years of judging culpability for grisly atrocities in the former Yugoslavia, creating along the way the basis for a permanent international war crimes court, Gahrielle Kirk McDonald wonders whether anyone is paying attention.

"When I go to the United States to talk about this," said Judge McDonald, who had been on the federal bench in Houston and is presiding judge of the United Nations war crimes trihunal here. "there's a lack of understanding, even a lack of interest."
"Is international law so

esoteric? Here we talk about Geneva Conventions," she said in an interview, referring to treaties defining war crimes and genocide, "hut many people think we're talking about the Democrace and Republican conventions."

As the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia becomes more visible with a surge in the arrests, surrenders and trials of war crimes suspects — two more Bosnian Scrbs were captured Wednesday - Judge McDonald sees an opportunity to raise the trihunal's profile in the United States.
One of my major goals as

an American is to point out the obvious: These are groups of people, whose differences are based on ethnicity and religion, engaging in atrocities because of those differ-ences," she said.

She added, "It calls to my mind, as a racial minority, things that have happened in the United States, including a failure to account for past events." That accounting is at the heart of the exercise of the five-year-old UN tribunal, which is prosecuting war crimes committed in the former Yngoslavia during the 1992-95 conflict and, sepa-A third British diplomat who was accompanying them at the time of the attack, Jim Warren, was not hurt. rately in Tanzania, those that occurred in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide. A British Emhassy official said that the two

Judge McDonald, 56, was wounded diplomats were in Tirana, but that he elected presiding judge in could not divulge their exact whereabouts.

The appointment of Judge McDonald hy her colleagues means that women run the trihunal's three major diviflagged down the car in which the three were sions: The chief prosecutor is Louise Arbour, a Canadian: In March, a Greek police officer, one of the international advisers who was sent to Al- and the registrar, which is bania after lawlessness erupted in 1997, was akin to chief operating ofwere taken to a linear according to the Interior after treatment, said Sokol Bare, the Interior shot and wounded by armed men who stole his ficer, is Dorothee de Samanter treatment, said Sokol Bare, the Interior shot and wounded by armed men who stole his ficer.

Among the challenges facing the tribunal is managing a legal Babel. Legal precedent for war crimes and genocide is sketchy.

With every seemingly minor ruling in the case of a war crimes suspect, the judges are often creating new rules of procedure. They are, in effect, creating a body of law that could become the legal foundation for a permanent war crimes tribunal heing organized under UN auspices, with a charter expected this summer.

Language problems present a major problem in The Hague. Trials are conducted in at least two lan-

guages, French and English, that is relevant," Judge Mchut also in Serbo-Croatian, In Donald said, Because there is a given case, Judge McDonno jury - panels of three ald added, the judges and lawyers involved can represent

legal and judicial traditions. Those familiar with the juries," she added. U.S. legal system might be One reason Judge McDon- million from last year.

struck by the virtually auto-matic admission of evidence, including hearsay. "We admit all evidence for more judges and for wit-

judges sit on individual cases
we can cut through irrelevancies and evidence that may inflame the passions of

ald is championing the tribunal in ber travels to the United States is to raise money

ness protection programs.

The practice of fund-raising from individual countries is and the peace accords that one way the trihunal has over- ended the Bosnian war to turn come hudget limitations. The UN also recently raised the hudget to nearly \$70 million. an increase of more than \$20

But Judge McDonald puts responsibility for the success of the tribunal where the prosecution staff puts it - in the applied for 50 years.

quired by the United Nations over indicted suspects. The tribunal has no autonomous police powers.

"I'm asking in a creative way," Judge McDonald said. to hring about the application of laws - the Geneva Conventions -- that have gone un-

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perspective on history, give it as a gift - a valuable learning tool - or simply sit back and enjoy it as



THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

# Yeltsin Helps Moscow Out of a Jam

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin ac- Itar-Tass press agency. knowledged Monday what every Muscovite

capital is terrible. Mr. Yeltsin said he was endorsing a proposal to build a third circular highway within the city to relieve some overcrowding.

He also expressed support for the economic plagued hy heavy traffic. reforms being carried out under Mr. Luzhkov, a popular and domineering mayor who is considered a likely presidential candidate in

WOU.

"I follow developments in Moscow very road between the two existing rings.

closely," Mr. Yeltsin said, according to the

Mr. Yeltsin was effectively Moscow's knows all too well: Traffic in the Russian mayor when he was the city's Communist After meeting with Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, ure, relatively few Russians owned cars and traffic moved easily through the capital's broad streets. But car ownership has exploded in the past decade, and Moscow is now

> Moscow has two circular highways, one ringing the central part of the city and one surrounding its outer reaches. The proposal endorsed by Mr. Yeltsin is for a third circular

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### INTERNATIONAL

# Ethiopia, a Pet of Aid Donors, Runs Into Criticism for Rights Violations

By Stephen Buckley Washington Post Service

human rights activist, an unrelenting advocate of freedom of association and individual rights.

To the Ethiopian government, he was a ter-rorist secretly scheming to sink Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's seven-year-old regime and the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front

Security forces killed Mr. Assefa last May. The government says he resisted arrest. Relatives, witoesses and human rights activists say he was shot in cold blood.

was among the most publicized of thousands of human rights abuses — including arbitrary ar-rests, "disappearances," and the repression of civic organizations and political opposition — that the Meles regime is alleged to have committed since it took power in 1991.

The government has arrested thousands of critics and opponents. It has detained more journalists in the past three years than any other African government. Two years ago, the International Committee of the Red Cross esti-

Opposition parties, human rights groups and ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — To supporters, major trade unions allege that the government Assefa Maru was a charismatic trade unionist and has shackled them by shutting their offices and by arresting their supporters in the countryside,

resting their supporters in the countryside, where 85 percent of the population lives.

Critics are especially alarmed that foreign governments shower Ethiopia annually with hundreds of millions of dollars in aid, despite mounting allegations of human rights violations. Donors have pledged more than \$2.5 billion since 1996. This year Ethiopia will receive \$700 million from the World Bank, the most of any country on the continent. Ethiopia also will receive more U.S. aid in 1998 — about \$83 million — than any other country in sub-Saharan Africa. country in sub-Saharan Africa

'How could the West give the aid?" said an Ethiopian journalist who has been arrested under Mr. Meles. "How could the West call Ethiopia a democracy? How could the West call Meles a new breed of leader? He has created an image, but there's no reality."

Mr. Meles says his government does not ter-

rorize critics and opponents. Journalists are arrested, he said in an interview, because they write stories that foment ethnic hatred or compromise national security, and opposition politicians are

people want to have it both ways" by belonging to a political party and by taking up arms, Mr. Meles said. "We have taken them to court." "We have no policy of intimidating the op-

position. I know what happens when peaceful, legal dissent is muzzled," the prime minister said. "I know what happens because I've been on the receiving side of that." He added, "If for no other reason than maintaining stability, we must

While saying that Ethiopia's seven-year jour-ney in democracy has produced "a mixed bag," he added, "I think we are trying very hard to establish democratic institutions.

Only the government's bitterest critics compare it to the repressive regime it toppled. From 1975 to 1991, the dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam imposed a Marxist-inspired "red terror" on Ethiopia marked by extrajudicial executions, imprisonment and torture of its opponents, economic collapse and widespread famine. The re-- known as the Dergue - fell and Colonel Mengistu fled into exile when a Meles-led rebel force overran the government army.

Since taking power, the new government has revived the economy of this East African nation

mated that 10,000 Ethiopians were in prison for political or national security reasons.

arrested when they embrace armed insurrection. of 60 million people, most of whom make about 50 percent to 25 cents a day. Ethiopia has enjoyed 5 percent to 7 percent economic growth rates since the early 1990s. Inflation has held between 4 percent and 5 percent. The government has privatized 190 state-run enterprises. Private investment has tripled since 1994, and 120 American investors

On a continent that donor nations hope to wean from direct aid, such an economic transformation has won high praise. Yet even major donors—who also support Ethiopia in part because it has become a linchpin in the fight to neutralize neighboring Sudan - express concern over the young regime's human rights record.

"The control element clearly exists," a senior
Western diplomat said, adding, "I wouldn't go
so far as to say they're trying to totally suppress

Beyone Petros, a prominent opposition politi-cian, contends that the regime allows just enough freedom to keep major donors quiet.

"A functioning multiparty system is nonexistent," he said. "There are political parties registered, but if you closely examine that list, 95 percent of the 60 parties are affiliated" with the ruling party. "They will show you a list and say, "What are you guys talking about?"

Many opposition parties have been forced to shut regional offices. Their leaders say the government often denies them permits to hold rallies Exorbitant fees preclude them from using government-owned media; Ethiopia's only private media outlet is a radio station owned by the ruling party. Opposition leaders say their phones are tapped. Many opposition politicians have fled abroad. Others have been in prison for much of Mr. Meles's rule. Six central committee members of one party, the All-Amhara People's Organization, are in detention. In Egypt. Copi

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Kengazmach Bekele, vice president of the All. Amhara People's Organization, said that not only humanitarian assistance but any assistance "giv-

en to the present government is wrong."
"When the U.S. assists this government," he said, "they think they are going along in a proper

Mr. Assefa was a top official in two orga-nizations that have had troubled relations with the government the Ethiopian Teachers' Association, the country's largest union, and the Ethiopian Human Rights Council. The government has refused to recognize the council and has allowed the branch of from School the branch of closed the hranch offices of the teachers' union raided its Addis Abaha office and arrested or fired dozens of members.

### Protestant Marchers Agree to Skip Catholic Area of Belfast

#### Season of Confrontation Starts Peacefully As Spirit of Ulster Accord Reaches Streets

BELFAST — Inspired by Northern Ireland's compromise peace accord, Protestants began the traditional "marching season" Monday by bowing to demands that they not parade through a

hostile Roman Catholic area of Belfast. The peaceful start contrasted with the violent street confrontations of recent years between pro-British Protestant fraternal groups and militant Catholics

determined to block their parades.

The Protestant group, the Apprentice
Boys, said they had decided not to conpreviously, because of the accord reached Friday among eight parties on how North-em Ireland should be governed.

The deal, if approved in May 22 referendums in both parts of Ireland, would But the North would remain firmly tied mined to block them.

to Britain.

The Apprentice Boys' gesture came the day after Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, urged Irish Republican Army supporters to accept the accord, telling them his negotiators could not have gotter and about 20 other middle-aged. ten a better deal. The IRA-allied party's commitment to the historic settlement is essential for it to work.

On Monday, hundreds of Catholics marched through a republican enclave in Protestant north Belfast, remembering IRA men and women killed in their 30year fight for Irish unity and victims of

Senate Democratic leader appointed by of Belfast, for another parade.

Mr. Clinton as envoy three years ago, also heralded the president's role in

hrokering the pact. "Nobody can rule out the possibility that 18 months from now, they can't get the assembly to work, that the whole process simply stops," Mr. Mitchell told The Times of London.

Mr. Mitchell has also suggested that extremists could step up attacks ahead of referendums to be held on both sides of the border on May 22 to canvass the

people's views on the deal.
Pope John Paul II thanked God on front police barring their path, as they have Monday for the Northern Ireland peace pact and appealed for "responsible and concrete gestures" to make it work.

Even though the Apprentice Boys failed to march through the Catholic area Monday, they vowed to march through create a new Northern Ireland assembly that for the first time would cooperate formally with the Republic of Ireland.

Put the Northern Ireland assembly the Lower Ormeau area at least once this summer. They declined to negotiate with neighborhood Catholic activists deter-

men in conservative suits and bowler in the interval of the last marched beneath a hanner of the British crown on an open Bible. A soldier patrolling in Belfast on Monday as Northern Ireland's Protestant "marching season" got under way. British crown on an open Bible. A soldier patrolling in Belfast on Monday as Northern Ireland's Protestant "marching season" got under way. British crown on an open Bible. Catholics opposed to Protestants the community remain "intent on members defect to continue bombings, and two other anti-British paramilitary estant stretch of south Belfast.

But the marching through their Lower Ormean minder, intent on bombing, intent on eighborhood said they would hlock any mercking any prospect there is for a groups, the Irish National Liberation Army and Continuity IRA, are committed.

RA men and women killed in their 30But the marchers stopped at a bridge marches. In the past three years, the
ear fight for Irish unity and victims of the mostly Protestant Upper Orneau which divides ideadlock has forced police to decide
the mostly Protestant Upper Orneau which side to confront—sometimes the from eight Catholic side streets consti- ignotestants, other times the Catholics—
from eight Catholic side streets consti- ignotestants, other times the Catholics—
the Illustry Defense Association and VI. man of the peace talks planned to brief tuting the Lower Ormeau. Instead, they often with violent consequences. President Bill Clinton on Monday on the boarded a hus to take them to the mostly



Meanwhile, the Northern Ireland poagreement. George Mitchell, a former Protestant town of Ballymena, northwest lice chief, Ronnie Flanagan, warned Monday that militants on both sides of

ster Volunteer Force, have observed their own truce since October 1994.

the Ulster Defense Association and Ul-ster Volunteer Force have formed a ruth-wife's Upper West Side apartment to the But the IRA has had a few senior people this year. (AP, Reuters)

# A Quiet Walk In New York For Mitchell By David M. Halbfinger

After Turmoil,

NEW YORK - George Mitchell's took a walk in Central Park.
His wife, Heather MacLachlan, carried their 6-month-old son in a pouch,

slung from her shoulders. Andrew, a cheruh, wore the new Irish wool sweater that some thoughtful ne-i gotiators in Belfast had given his fa-

There were some head-turns of recognition at the former Senate majority? leader, who had changed from the univ form of statecraft to the garh of a Sunday; stroll — green fleece windbreaker, khan kis and sneakers.

Mary Cummins, a visitor to New York from Portlaoise, Ireland, stopped; him to shake his hand. "There's a lot of, republican presented the artists of the shake his hand." republican prisoners there" in Northern, Ireland, she offered, thanking him for his

This was hardly the welcome, one) might expect for a man who had just guided 22 months of peace talks in Northern Ireland to fraition, the kind of historic accomplishment for which No.

bel Peace prizes are conferred. But the always self-effacing Mr. Mitchell seemed perfectly content to blend in.

It was like that all Sunday. In the major pro-British paramilitary groups, the Ulster Defense Association and Ul-morning, Mr. Mitchell walked from his less new gang called the Loyalist Vol- ABC studios on West 66th Street, where unteer Force, which has killed eight he was interviewed briefly for the program "This Week." He had said he hoped a group interview would satisfy, the expected battery of cameras and miacrophones and notebooks and clamoring.

> But Mr. Mitchell was greeted outside by a solitary wire-service photograph-

From there, Mr. Mitcbell and his wife went to Easter Mass. This was at the Manhattan church where they were marson will be christened next week, hnt;which Mr. Mitchell declined to name, saying he preferred not to discuss religious matters publicly.
At nonn, still in the suit and pancake.

makeup that he had worn on so many, Sundays during his Senate career, Mr. Mitchell sat for a while near the fountain; at Lincoln Center and talked about his own future, as well as Northern Ire-

He declined to describe what advice, he planned to give President Bill Clinton, in their Monday meeting in Washington, except to say that he would urge Mr. Clinton to visit Northern Ireland again in ... the coming months.

"When a president comes to a place-twice in a matter of two years, it makes itclear that they have American support in this effort," he said. If the president does" go, Mr. Mitchell added, he will accom-

Mr. Mitchell modestly compared his accomplishments in Northern Ireland to. his authorship of the Clean Air Act and of a change in the date when Daylight Saving Time takes effect.

But he made clear that his three-year tour of diplomatic duty had marked

"I have formed a very deep conwho benefit from our society, have some obligation to help others when the chance comes, he said. "While it was extremely difficult from a personal standpoint, I'm as much a beneficiary of this effort as anyone in Northern Ireland - because I was able to do something, at least to a small degree, to discharge the obligation that I feel I have to be helpful

Despite the months apart from his new family, despite the sleepless nights that produced an agreement, Mr. Mitchell, 64, said he was looking forward to resurning his frequent-flier status in the next few weeks, albeit to other points than ireland. "I feel fine," he said. "I slept on the

After two days in Washington, where he has his primary residence and is a partner at a law firm, Mr. Mitchell will at leave for a husiness trip to Europe. In late summer, he and his family will vacation on Mount Desert Island, off the Maine

### **Taiwan-China Ties Threatened** By a Possible Death Sentence

sentenced to death for defecting to China 24 years ago, but analysts warned Monday that such a move might jeopardize a warming in Taiwan-China relations. Wu Miao-hou, 48, was a lieutenant in

an amphibious reconnaissance company when he deserted and defected to the Communist mainland in 1974 from Wuchiu, a tiny island outpost off Taiwan. He was arrested Thursday after he was found to have returned in April to Miaoli, his hometown in central Taiwan, a Defense Ministry spokesman said. Mr. Wu carried documents identify-

ing him as a citizen of the Communist People's Republic of China, which the Nationalist Republic of China on Taiwan does not recognize.

Since a thaw began in the two countries' hiner standoff in the late 1980s, Taipei has allowed mainland citizens to visit relatives in Taiwan.

That is not all that has changed in the 24 years since Mr. Wu changed sides. Taiwan has also lifted martial law, prospered as an industrial powerhouse and flourished as a young democracy. Still, tough ideological rules remain in the armed forces, including capital punishment for defectors.

"Under military law, the only sentence for a military officer defecting to seats — each side reclines separately — Communist China is death," Defense Minister Chiang Chung-ling told Par-liament. Mr. Chiang said a military court would decide if Mr. Wu should die for

defection. A Defense Ministry spokesman said the military court might consider a lighter sentence against Mr. Wu to reflect the advances of democracy in Taiwan.

Political analysts said an execution might adversely affect the thaw in China-Taiwan ties, which Beijing froze in 1995 after President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan was allowed to visit the United States over China's objections.

"Wu is already a mainland resident," said Hu Fu, a law professor at National Taiwan University. "Sentencing him to die would create an unnecessary dispute." Taipei and Beijing have inched toward resuming the semi-official talks that Beijing hroke off in 1995. The first talks could come as early as April 21 under a proposal issued by Beijing on

TAIPEI — A former soldier could be istry said Monday it would hold a major military exercise in eastern Taiwan to increase the armed forces' comhat read-(Reuters, AP)

**■ China Seeks Better Bureaucrats** China must limit powers of govern-

ment bodies and root out corrupt or incompetent officials, state media said Monday, Reuters reported from Beijing. The People's Daily, a newspaper con-trolled by the Communist Party, said many officials were unsuited to managing a market economy. "Some seek

fame and profit, and like to use connections to open doors," it added.
The China Business Times said China should use a recently adopted plan to streamline its bloated bureaucracy to curh the powers of government ministries and stamp out graft. Last month,

Beijing approved a plan to cut the number of ministries to 29 from 40 and cut the number of civil servants in half.



A FREE WASHING - Polish schoolboys in central Warsaw celebrating "Wet Monday" by flinging huckets of water on a city bus and its passengers. Such dousings are a tradition on the day after Easter.

### CHAIR: It Glides, Swivels and Rocks - Baby Boomers Give the Recliner a New Image

Continued from Page I

Motion sofas and sectionals accommodate the whole family; motion love allow couples the occasional difference in opinion. While other living-room furnishings just sit there, sales of multiseat motion furniture leaped 85 percent from 1990 to 1996.

"If there's been a battle, stationary is losing," said Jerry Epperson, a furnitureindustry analyst at Interstate Johnson Lane in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"There's a stigma, oh, sure," he said, referring to what the husiness still calls the "beer and baloney" factor, "but the recliner will win out.

La-Z-Boy, the largest U.S. maker of upholstered furniture, has just crossed the \$1 hillion mark in sales. The La-Z-Boy recliner, which turned 70 this month, is still the jewel in its crown: More than 1.5 million were sold last

year, up 7 percent from 1996.

Most other npholstered-furniture
manufacturers and lifestyle retailers also have leaped into the lay-back fray.

There's definitely a demand, and it's "There's definitely a demand, and it's "Your chair is your chair, no matter not just a blue-collar market," said Roh what it looks like." Separately, the Taiwan Defense Min- Pitt, product manager at Crate & Barrel,

on previously, because it didn't seem like our andience -- everybody thought it was kind of tacky." Mr. Epperson said, "Slackers think it's the ultimate chair."

Jeff Lipson, 26, a computer graphics artist and self-described slacker, said, It's a killer, it's even better than I thought it would be." Mr. Lipson was speaking from the new black leather La-2-Boy recliner he purchased for \$1,100 for his house in Royal Oak, Michigan. He compared it to a stack of pillows.

you'd want from a chair," he said. Maria Poarch, a research assistant for the Middle Class Morality Project, a sociological study of Americans' ethical beliefs, said she had seen just as many recliners in young people's homes as in older people's homes in her interviews.

"Beyond this, I can't imagine what

They were very often down-toearth, rugged, individualistic salt-of-the-earth Americans," she said. "From Confederates to labor-union Demo-chair—an armchair astronaut of sorts. crats," she said, their seating stance was,

which introduced its first recliner last road to success: Women buy 95 percent month. "It's something we didn't focus of the upholstered furniture in America, and historically, the recliner has been considered stylistically incorrect. Now, La-Z-Boy and its compentors are introducing smaller recliners that more closely approximate traditional wing chairs and clah chairs.

"As a working woman, I'd love to go home and put my feet up, but I want to do it on something I wouldn't be afraid to see," said Kimberley Wray, editorial director of Highpoints magazine, a furnishings-industry publication.

Ms. Wray remained skeptical about the recliner's preeminence. "While motion is getting more fashionable, it's not ready for the living room," she said. "It's family-room fare,"

At La-Z-Boy World Headquarters in Monroe, Michigan, meanwhile, nobody has his or her feet up - at least, not figuratively. When La-Z-Boy intro-duces an entirely new mechanism and actual person is employed to test the

"For five or 10 minutes, it was easy, but for eight hours a day, it definitely hat it looks like." required some mental endurance, said locall There is a speed hump, though, on the Michael Pixley, an aeronautical engi-

for two summers in the La-Z-Boy lah while a student at the University of Michigan. "I read about 50 books - Homer's

'lliad,' a lot of Tom Clancy, the Bible." he said. Mr. Pixley's two shifts - morning and afternoon — involved 4,000 reclines and other motions a day. "The worst one was the one where

they wanted me to test the swivel," he said. "Full circle to the left, full circle to the right. I got kind of dizzy."

The world's first automatic reclining

chair, the La-Z-Boy was invented in the spring of 1928 by two cousins from Monroe, Edward Knabusch and Edwin Shoemaker. Mr. Knabusch died in 1988. Mr. Shoemaker, the self-taught, mechanical engineering side of the team, died last month at 90. The company is now a global presence, with 438 active patents in 35 countries, including Zimbahwe, Israel, Italy and Japan.
"They introduced the first La-Z-Boy

reclining chair the year before the Depression," said Judith Carr, director of the La-Z-Boy museum in Monroe. "They were two farm boys who grew up locally. But they kept their eye on the

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## After Turmoil A Quiet Walk In New York

By David M. Hulbtinger

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# For Mitchell

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# In Egypt, Coptic Leaders Cry Out Against U.S. Interference'

By Youssef M. Ibrahim New York Times Service

CAIRO - A proposed American law aimed at reducing persecution of religious minorities abroad has aroused anger here, even among the people it is intended to help, and has stirred an outcry against Washington's interference in the domestic affairs of other

The Freedom From Religious Persecution Act was approved by the House Committee on International Relations on March 25 by a vote of 31 to 5. It is expected to be submitted to the full House in May. The Senate version of the bill is pending in the Foreign Relations Committee

The bill would mandate sanctions against countries found guilty of religious discrimination.

Advocates of the law have made it clear that it is aimed at these specific situations: China's persecution of cer-tain Christians, Muslims and Tibetan Buddhists; Saudi Arabia's treatment of

its non-Muslim expatriate work force,

Egypt and Sndan. But the legislation is opposed by many Egyptian Copts, who represent the largest Christian minority in the

Arah world. If enacted, such a law strengthen the demands of those in Congress who want to eliminate U.S. economic aid to Egypt, now at about \$2 billion a year, which has been a pillar of Egyptian-American relations for

nearly two decades - since Egypt signed the Camp David peace accords with Israel.

The proposed law comes at a time when much of the Arab world is boiling over with accusations that the United States applies a double standard of justice: punishing Arab and Muslim countries with sanctions while overlooking Israeli violations of the rights of Palestinians and other Arabs.

and the alleged systematic persecution of the large Christian populations in opposition news organizations, members of Parliament and the public, including leading Copts, who feel they are being used as pawns by enemies of

Egypt in the United States. Those who are trying to incite forcould eigners to interfere in Egypt's internal ulation of 65 million people.

A new law against religious persecution could strengthen the demands of those in Congress who want to cut off aid to Cairo.

affairs are, in fact, stahhing Copis in the heart," said Edward Ghali Eldahabi, a repair of churches. Another is the gen-Coptic member of the People's Assembly, a consultative group made up of senior jurists and community lead-

Another Copt, Mounir Abdelnour,

In Egypt, the assault on the proposal streets by Muslims, and these issues can few token appointments. Still, most be solved within a framework of a national dialogue.

Copts contend that they are not a cultural or ethnic minority, but Egyptians whose ancestors embraced Christianity in the first century. They make up about 10 percent of Egypt's pop-

Speaking privately, prominent Copts in business, the arts and professional circles concede that there are indeed discriminatory measures against Copts. One is an archaic law

dating from the Ottoman repair of churches. Another is the general failure of Egyptian high schools to include lessons about the nation's six centuries of Coptic influence before the advent of Islam.

Copts also are excluded from much

Copts here maintain that the wisest way to deal with the issue is quietly, and within Egypt.

could do to all Copts here."

On the other side of the divide, those leading the lohhying for the measure are the growing and powerful Coptic communities in the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia - estimated at well over 600,000. These Coptic immigrants, most of whom have arrived in the past 20 years seeking economic opportunities, have formed powerful lohhies in Western nations

that encourage political activism.
"We did not invent the law," said Selim Naguib, a leading activist among Copts in Canada, "This is a matter of sovereign American decisions. But if chairman of Vitrac, a major exporter of food products, said: "Yes, there are problems. But we are not killed in the level academic positions, except for a ment claims, why do they fear it?"

BRIEFLY

Court Refuses to Release

Moderate Tehran Mayor

TEHRAN — A court has rejected an appeal by the mayor of Tehran, Gbolam-Hossein Kar-

baschi, to be released from prison where he is

being held on corruption charges, Iranian

newspapers reported Monday.

"A judge at a review court ruled that the

mayor's protest was not sustained and approved

the original ruling by the special court for of-fending bureaucrats," the Kayhan daily said. Mr. Karbaschi, a moderate who is close to

President Mohammed Khatami, was arrested

April 4 in connection with a corruption scan-

dal. The case has brought into the open a

simmering dispute between conservatives and

GEORGE, South Africa - Former Pres-

ident Pieter Botha will go trial Tuesday for refusing to testify before the Truth and Re-

conciliation Commission about security-force

The governing African National Congress, which Mr. Botha sought to crush in order to

maintain white minority rule, plans to picket the

court. The ANC also set a larger demonstration

for Friday, which is expected to be the last day of

Mr. Botha, 82, is charged with contempt. If

convicted, he could face a fine of up to 20,000

Rebel Commander Seized

By Turks in Northern Iraq

Botha's Trial to Open

Amid Protest by ANC

actions during his administration.

rand or two years in prison.

### U.S. Fight **Over Census** Heats Up

Republicans Fear Losses If New Method Is Used

> By Steven A. Holmes New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Two years from the start of the 2000 census, it is shaping. up as the most contentious in 80 years, generating a firestorm of debate in Congress and litigation aimed at blocking the Census Bureau from changing the way it

Over the last year, the dispute over the bureau's plans to alter its method of counting the population delayed passage of a disaster relief hill for victims of. flooding in the Midwest, prompted Congress and the Clinton administration to set up an outside board to monitor the bureau and generated two lawsuits, including one by the House speaker, Representative Newt Gingrich, Republican; of Georgia.

Congress has ordered the traditionally; apolitical Census Bureau to draft two plans for conducting the census, one the old way and one using the proposed new method, statistical sampling, which is at

the center of the dispute.

This is quite a battle," said Representative Christopher Shays, Republican of Connecticut, one of the few members of his party to support the proposed changes.

The fight is the most beated since the 1920 census, when rural lawmakers, aghast that the headcount documented for the first time that more people lived in cities than in rural areas, refused to use the results 10 reapportion the House of Representatives.

At issue this time is the Census Bureau's plan to forgo its traditional, and some experts say failing, method of trying to physically count every person in the country. Instead, the bureau proposes to try to count all the people in 90 percent of the households in each census : tract, which is a geographical area con-sisting of about 1,700 dwellings.

Using those figures, hureau statisticians would try to determine the number of people in the tract who had not been physically counted. The hureau would then check for accuracy hy conducting a survey of 750,000 households nationwide and making any needed adjustments to the final total.

The statistical sampling plan was prompted by the 1990 census, which cost \$2.6 hillion, a 400 percent increase over the previous head count, in 1980, even after adjusting for inflation. The 1990 effort missed 10 million people and double-counted 6 million, according to Census Bureau studies and a study by the National Research Council, an arm of . the National Academy of Sciences. Most Republicans vigorously oppose

the plan for sampling, arguing that it . violates Article I of the constitution, which calls for an 'actual enumeration' every 10 years, and that it is much too complex for the Census Bureau to perform successfully.

But the proposal is staunchly supported hy many Democrats, who assert that it is the only way to get an accurate tally of minorities, particularly innercity blacks and Hispanic migrant workers, who are traditionally the hardest to -

Beneath the assertions about consntutionality and fairness and the discussion over statistical methods lies a raw political fight that is based on race and redistricting. And the outcome, some ex-perts say, could be critical to which party controls the House and state legislatures in the beginning of the next century. Both sides say the Census Bureau's sampling method would probably help

Democrats and harm Republicans, but Sampling may increase the count of minorities, primarily hlacks, who are the Democrats' most loyal voters, in some congressional and state legislative districts. Since these districts tend to be safe. ones for Democrats, boundaries could be redrawn by state legislatures to shift some of the "surplus" black voters into

neighboring white districts, making

these districts more competitive for the; "The Republicans are very much aware of this," said a Democratic redistricting expert. "That's wby they're fighting it. They're scared they're going to lose the House. Frankly, I don't see that it would make a 15- to 20-seat difference. It might make a 6-, 8- or 10seat difference. But given the situation ...

we have right now, that's huge." Indeed, the Republicans are very much aware. Some even argue strongly . that the reasons the party has a slim. majority in the Honse have less to do with ideology and more with the fact that the 1990 census was conducted in the :traditional way.

Last year, Jim Nicholson, chairman of the Republican National Committee, . sent a memo to his state chairmen, urging them to join in the fight against statistical sampling, saying the method could jeopardize 24 House seats, 113 state senate : seats and 297 state house seats.

### Mexico Steps Up Ousters Of Chiapas Rebel Backers

MEXICO CTTY --- Mexico has begun the deportations of 12 foreigners for allegedly interfering in the nation's in-ternal affairs by belping to form a par-allel local government that supported rebels in the south.

The mass expulsion, which was to be finished Monday, was the largest yet in a crackdown on foreigners accused of stirring up trouble in the state of Chiapas, where the leftist Zapatista National Libajeration Army staged a brief rebellion in 1994, demanding improved rights and living conditions for Indian peasants.

The deportees were arrested Saturday, government officials said Sunday night at a news conference in Mexico City. The arrests took place during a raid by 750 Mexican police and soldiers on Taniperlas, a village near the Guatemalan border where a so-called antonomons town council had been formed.

Late Sunday, 10 of those arrested three Americans, four Spaniards, two Belgians and a German — were put on flights for their homelands at Mexico City's international airport, the official Notimex press agency reported. Two put on a flight to Canada on Monday. ... Both journalists disputed that account.

"The government of Mexico has no conflict with foreigners," Alejando Carrillo Castro, commissioner of the National Immigration Institute, said at the news conference. "Those protected by our laws assume an obligation to respect Mexican law.

Immigration officials in Chiapas broadly interpret a constitutional ban on foreign interference in politics and have deported foreigners for attending rebelsponsored events or otherwise participating in politics. At least eight other foreigners have been deported since January on such grounds.

Police officers transporting the 12 de-portees to Mexico City clasbed Sunday with two news photographers at the air-port in the capital of Chiapas, Tuxtla Gutierrez. The photographers, who were taking pictures of the departure, asserted that police officers had beaten them with rifle butts. Pascual Gorriz Marcos of The Associated Press suffered a gash on his head and Oriana Elicabe of Agence France-Presse was bruised.

The state government said the incident began when an officer escorting the pair from a restricted area was hitten by Miss Canadians who were arrested were to be Elicabe and kicked by Mr. Gorriz Marcos.



An officer dragging an Associated Press photographer, Pascual Gorriz Marcos, who was trying to cover the deportees' transfer in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico. He was hurt, as was Oriana Elicabe, who took this picture.

### MEXICO: Senator's Raid Exposes 7 Years of Illegal Wiretapping by Government

Continued from Page 1

tional Action Party, is a declared candidate for the presidency in the elections in 2000,

In a nation that is struggling to make the transition from a government controlled by a single political party for nearly 70 years to a multiparty democracy, increasing numbers of politicians and private citizens have begun to speak out against the eavesdropping.

"It is a horrible, filthy method of political control," said Mariclaire Acosta, president of the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights, who said she was a regular target of wiretaps. "It's a fundamental violation of the right to privacy."

The bugging operations have becent years with an explosion in kidnapping, drug trafficking and other crimes that many citizens and burnan rights activists say has been abetted hy corrupt law enforcement officials to the area where leftist guerrillas may with access to wiretaps.

agency identified with the electronic diers and an equal number of rebels surveillance operations — the federal had been killed. attorney general and Interior Ministry, the military, the national securred Sunday near El Calvario, 90
curred Sunday institutions — has denied any knowl-

Peninsula where Senator Sansores found the eavesdropping equipment, officials declined requests for inter-

"The governor of Campeche is not involved in any case of espionage," a discovered on March 3. spokesman for Governor Jose Gonza-

Officials of the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party have accused Senator Sansores of manipulating the information to buttress ber the front door of the building, she was claims that the party used fraud to accompanied by 300 snpporters who defeat her in the gubernatorial elec- encircled the house to prevent work-

Although wiretapping was illegal in Mexico until last year — when a sands of files. They uncarthed records

edge of bngging activities. In new criminal law package was ap- that showed state government checks Campeche, the state on the Yucatan proved allowing court-ordered had been used to buy more than \$1.2 wiretaps for law enforcement purposes - hugging scandals have made from Israel. They found certificates of headlines regularly for years. But commendation issued to two opernever before have victims hit the evidentiary jackpot that Senator Sansores ican national security agency, another

center. On the night she knocked on ers from carting away evidence.

Tipped off by an anonymous note pressed into ber hand during a camthousands of pages of transcripts of telephone conversations and boxes of audio tapes dating from 1991. paign rally, she said she had spent several months looking for the spy

She and her aides collected thou-

### The bugging operations have become particularly troublesome in re-

BOGOTA - Rebels and soldiers clashed in a mountainous region close ith access to wiretaps.

As always, every government

The army said Monday that 11 sol-

army said. Ten other soldiers were wounded, it said.

The battle site was close to the rested on wiretapping charges, ac-place where the rebel organization is cording to the federal attorney bird-watchers and an Italian businesson March 23. The army did not men- discuss the cases.

at 7 A.M., transcribing your conver-Mr. Quintana was one of three employees at the center who were ar-

believed to be holding three American general's office. All have since been released on bail. Lawyers for the three man who were seized at a roadblock men did not return telephone calls to

million in surveillance equipment

ators, one an employee of the Mex-

a military intelligence specialist.

They found a list of names of the main

bugging victims. And they found

As the senator was combing

through the documents, she sald.

Valente Quintana Gonzalez, who ac-

cording to the records was the op-

erational director of the center with

ties to the national security agency, approached her and said: "You were

my obsession for seven years. Seven

years listening to your voice starting

### INVESTORS: U.S. Says Wealthy Foreigners Manipulate Immigration Program

Continued from Page 1

But when immigration officials moved this year to revoke more than 5,000 visas granted under the program, mostly to immigrants from Taiwan, China, Sonth Korea and Hong Kong. a number of influential lawmakers from both parties, including Senator Edward Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, protested that their consultants in limbo. the government was changing the rules in midstream. The immigration service, the law-

investors were doing and never raised an eyebrow when the government approved the visa petitions. The law- of the consulting firms. makers criticized a freeze the agency has imposed on most new visas until it sorts ont what kinds of investments are allowed — saying it has stymied growth in economically depressed parts of the country that the program was intended to help invig-

orate.
"For months, American jobs, created by the investor visa program, have been ensnared in bureaucratic red tape," said Representative Lamar Smith, Republican of Texas, who heads the House Judiciary snbcommittee on immigration. Job opportunities have been stifled by a heavyhanded government agency.

In response to the criticism, the

immigration service backtracked a hit

late last month, allowing 1,500 in-

But bundreds of other applicants in the pipeline will have to refile their petitions under the new guidelines, a process that could take several months. Critics say the immigration service has failed to publicize this decision, leaving immigrants and "The immigration service is

wreaking havoc on everyone's lives, and it makes zero sense to me," said makers said, knew all along what the Denyse Sabagh, a former president of Association, who now represents one The issue has rekindled a fierce debate over the propriety of nsing

permanent residency visas in an effort to attract foreign capital and create, or at least save, American jobs. The nproar also underscores deficiencies within the immigration service. Its loosely worded regulations are an easy target for firms looking for loopholes. And its examiners, who

are trained to ferret out most immi-

gration fraud, are ill-equipped to ad-

dress increasingly complicated finan-

The INS, unlike the IRS, isn't typically an agency that has to police and stepped up their marketing, par-with the visa program. against highly sophisticated invest-ment devices, said David Martin, the former general counsel of the immigration service whose blistering late last month, anowing 1,300 ml 36-page memorandum in December visas in fiscal 1997.

received green cards and completed a two-year waiting period, to stay in the United States.

became the centerpiece of the government's review of the program.

For the immigration service the

visa program is the latest in a string of contentious issues to catch the aturalizing tens of thousands of immigrants and has even suggested abolishing the service altogether.

The immigrant investor program, which offers 10,000 visas a year, has never caught on the way its proponents had hoped. Until two years issned more than 600 visas a year to

Congress created the program in 1990 to compete with such other countries as Canada and Australia that offered similar visas to attract capital and create jobs. But the American model required larger investments, the hiring of at least 10 employees who were not related to the investor, and an audit two years after the visa was issued to ensure the investment

and employees were still in place. In the past two years, immigration view. "Little by little, the program officials say that consulting firms may have gotten out of control," said

ticularly in Asian and Middle Eastern

sued to investors jumped from 295

At the same time, American consular officials in Tokyo, Taipei, For the immigration service, the Seoul, Hong Kong and Guangzhou, China, raised questions about dozens of visa petitions. Consuls found that tention of the Republican-led Con-gress, which over the past year has ment, typically \$150,000 on a criticized the agency for wrongly nat- \$500,000 investment, and arranged a promissory note for the remainder. After two years, the investor would get a green card, and then, the plans suggested, the remaining \$350,000 would be forgiven. Last month, the California Depart-

ment of Corporations ordered a Virago, the immigration service never ginia-based firm, Interbank Immigration Services Inc., to stop offering investors and their immediate family investment programs to wealthy immigrants. The company, California officials said, promised qualified immigrants a green card within eight weeks if they bought a stake in a Delaware limited partnership. The stakes were in turn sold to a Bahamian enterprise for an annuity that matured in five years. But state officials said investors had no gnarantee they would ever realize the promised benefits. Reports like this prompted the im-

have devised savvier business plans a State Department official familiar But many consulting firms say they publications. The number of visas is- have followed the rules, and are being penalized for the ahuses of a few or by visas in fiscal year 1996 to 1,110 in lax oversight by immigration offi-

migration service to conduct its re-

#### tured a senior commander of rebel Kurds in Turkey in northern Iraq and brought him back to Turkey, the Anatolian News Agency said The Turks landed by helicopter in D'hok, about 50 kilometers south of the Turkish border,

ANKARA - Turkish special forces cap-

and captured the commander, Semdin Sakik, and his brother as they were leaving a house, the agency said, quoting NTV television. Mr. Sakik took refuge with an Iraqi Kurdish group last month, reportedly after falling out

with the leader of the Kurdish Workers Party,

Abdullah Ocalan.

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Herald Eribune

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

### EDITORIALS/OPINION

### Russia and Latvia

has reached a worrying stage. The Russian government last Wednesday announced economic measures - not 'sanctions,'' its spokesmen insist -against its small Baltic neighbor. Latvia says some measures, such as interference with exports on their common border, already are in place. In Moscow, the anti-Latvia rhetoric has been extreme and inflammatory - although the worst has come from opposition politicians, not those in government in Riga, bombs have exploded, including outside the Russian Embassy — provocations, clearly, al-

though on whose behalf is less clear. The ostensible reason for this escalating dispute is Russian indignation at the treatment of Latvia's large population of Russian-speakers. This is a painful problem in which both sides can claim, with some justification, to

be victims of history.

The Soviet Union illegally occupied Latvia for 50 years, deliberately encouraging Russians to settle there while deporting many Latvians to Siberia. When Latvia recovered its independence in 1991, it recovered a state only 56 percent Latvian and in danger, many feared, of losing its essential cultural and linguistic identity. Not unreasonable, then, to demand some language proficiency as a condition of citizenship. Latvian officials say.

Russian-speakers bave a different view. Through no fault of their own, they argue, they woke up one morning to find themselves stateless. Many are 100 old to learn a challeoging new language; not fair, then, that they

A row between Russia and Latvia should be denied the privileges of citizenship in a land where they may have been born and where they have worked bonestly all their lives.

This is not a new problem; why tensions should erupt now is not certain. Russia's looming presidential campaign; its interest in staking a claim to assets being privatized in Latvia; simply the perception that Latvia, with a tottering coalition government, is weaker than its Baltie neighbors, Lithuania and Estonia - all that may play a role.

In any case, Russia is entitled to apply sanctions if it chooses; given its policy toward Cuba, the United States could bardly claim otherwise. But sanctions in this case are likely to hurt many Russian-speakers while encouraging Latvia to reorient its economy more quickly to the West. More constructive would be to reassure Latvia that Russia has abandoned any imperial pretensions, thereby rendering the Latvians more secure and perhaps more generous toward the Russianspeaking population.

Most disturbing in this crisis has been the behavior of French, German and, most recently, Italian officials who have traveled to Moscow and joined in Russia's application of pres-sure on Latvia. If Western Europe believes that Larvia should work harder to integrate its Russian-speakers — a reasonable position — the place to deliver that message is Riga. In Moscow they should be talking about the right of every nation, no matter how small, to live free of bullying and intimidation. -THE WASHINGTON POST.

### **Mission to Kabul**

The Clinton administration's roving diplomatic problem-solver and UN representative. Bill Richardson, is bringing some timely American leverage to bear on the problems of civil war and fundamentalist repression in Afghanistan. Both problems flow indirectly from the war waged there in the 1980s between Soviet troops and American-backed Muslim guerrillas. That gives Washingion special responsibility to work for an end to the fighting and for greater respect for burnan rights, especially those of women victimized by Islamic fundamentalist rule.

After driving out Soviet troops in 1989, Afghanistan's Islamic forces turned on each other. The ensuing civil war still sputters on in the far north. Since 1996, the remainder of the country bas been ruled by the fiercely fundamentalist Taleban, which excludes women from public life and denies them any chance of education. The Talehan enforces its radical notions of Islamic purity through public stonings and street beatings.

The problems of this misgoverned country will not be resolved quickly. But Mr. Richardson's timing is propitious. He will arrive this week during

a lull in fighting before the winter snows melt, and will carry a UN peace initiative supported by all of Afghanistan's neighbors, several of which have been channeling support to competing Afghan factions. The most significant foreign involvement comes from Pakistan, which belps the Taleban, and from Iran and Russia, which give arms and other aid to its opponents. Interestingly, Afghanistan is proving to be an issue on which America and Iran share common goals and have been able to work together constructively.

Mr. Richardson should remind the Taleban that it risks losing needed in-ternational assistance if it continues impeding the work of foreign aid workers who are women. The United Nations has already suspended aid missions in southern Afgbanistan over this issue. Mr. Richardson also needs to talk about the Taleban's mistreatment of Afghan women, which Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has rightly characterized as "despicable."

Afghanistan's people have lived through nearly 20 years of war and

-THE NEW YORK TIMES.

### **Tax Week Noise**

Herald Cribune

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This is Tax Week for Americans, and the worst thing about it may not be the taxes themselves but the commiserating rhetoric of the politicians who, having created the present tax system, will spend the next days deploring it as if it were the handiwork of strangers. It will not be just themselves they will try to leave blamcless, either. They will sympathize with the public for having to pay the cost of services that, if you believe this is a representative govemment, the public itself demands.

That's the ritual; much of what you hear will be wrong.

Anti-tax groups typically use the occasion to exaggerate the burden the share of income that most people pay. They like to say the average household pays between 35 and 40 percent of its income in taxes of all kinds — federal, state and local. The true figure is between 25 and 30 per-cent, depending on the method you use. The antis inflate it in part by simply dividing total taxes paid by the number of taxpayers, conveniently leaving out of the calculation precisely the aspect of the tax system to which many of them most object - the fact that it is progressive.

Much of the income in the country is bunched at the top, and high-income people are taxed at higher rates. The average family only wishes it had enough income to be taxed at the rate

that the anti-tax groups ascribe to it.

The federal tax hurden of the typical family has been relatively stable in recent years, say, since the mid-1970s. The total has not gone up. It is the mix that has changed. The income tax accounts for less, and the regressive Social Security-Medicare tax for more. Again, the critics this week are likely to leave that out.

There will be a lot of complaint, with cause, about the complexity of the code. Some of the loudest complainers will turn out to have been among the greatest complicators.

And complication is not all bad; it is one of the ways by which Congress tries to adjust the code to individual circumstances, which is to say, to achieve fairness.

Still, you will hear no end of talk as the week wears on about the virtues of simplification, a flat tax, a sales tax instead of the income tax, etc. The impression is often created that simpler will mean lower. But most of these are proposals that would not reduce the hurden so much as redistribute it. Those at the top would pay less. middle-income families more.

The current tax code is anything but perfect. It could indeed use some careful thought. Unfortunately, this is the week of the year when it is least likely to get it.

- THE WASHINGTON POST.

# As in Northern Ireland, So in the Middle East?

Northern Ireland's. The mixture of nationalism and religion numbed reason for centuries. In the last 30 years more than 3,000 men, women and children were killed by one side or the other.

Yet now the main Republican and Unionist parties, whose faith for so long allowed no compromise, have agreed to a settlemeot. Much may still go wrong, but for the first time in our lives it is possible to think of the Irish Troubles in the past tense.

How did it bappen, this wonder of a settlement? The question is important not just for Ireland but for other persistent conflicts, notably the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

One reason an Irish settlement was

possible is that, underneath the rhetoric of fear and hate, realities had changed. The Irish Republic was oo longer dominated by a rigid Roman Catholic orthodoxy that alarmed northern Protestants. Nor was it the desperately poor country whose main export was emigrants. It was an increasingly prosperous country, well educated and very much

part of the European Union. On the other side, the old Republican image of a rapacious Britain holding By Anthony Lewis

onto Northern Ireland for colonial exploitation was passé. The only reason Britain holds to the union with Northern Ireland is a sense of responsibility to the Protestant loyalists there.

A Conservative British prime minister, Edward Heath, put forward the idea of power-sharing in Belfast 25 years ago, only to have the Unionists reject it. Now a Labour prime minister with an enormous majority in the House of Commons, Tony Blair, was in a position to press hard for compromise. He did so, working with the frish

Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern.
Finally, and crucially, there was
American leadership. President Bill Clinton took a real risk in letting the Sinn Fein leader, Gerry Adams, visit the United States — and that helped bring the IRA into the process. He was on the telephone through the last night, urging the negotiators on. And former Secator George Mitchell was the ir-replaceable pilot of the negotiations. The American role was made pos-

sible by maturing political attitudes among American politicians of Irish origin. The old tendency toward proRepublican sentiments and suspicion of Britain faded. Senator Edward Kennedy spoke for many in his strong support of a negotiated settlement.

But in the end it was the feeling among the people of Northern Ireland that made the difference. Most yearned for peace, and came to see that there was no other way to it than political compromise.

In the Middle East also, two peoples are in the same small piece of land. And here again there is only one way to a peaceful life — a decent life — for both. That is withdrawal of Israel from most of the West Bank and Gaza and the establishment there of a Palestinian state.

That is what Yitzhak Rabin came to understand as Israel's prime minister. that there could be no peace unless the Palestinians had a place of their own. It was not something that this unsenti-mental old soldier desired. Sheer intellectual honesty brought him to recognize a truth that he did not like.

That is why Mr. Rabin signed the Oslo Agreement. It is why be persisted in carrying out the terms even when Palestinian terrorists tried to undermine Oslo by murder. He persisted antil an Israeli terrorist with the same aim killed him.

Now Oslo is dying. And anyone prepared to look at the realities without bias knows why. An Israeli prime minister who depends on the support of a religious-nationalist ultras wants above all else to stay in office. If that means killing the chance for peace, so be it. Benjamin Netanyahu's quibbling

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about withdrawal from this or that percentage of the West Bank only conceals the heart of the matter. That is that he opposes any solution that would give the Palestinians a viable state tiny, disarmed, poor, dominated by Israel, but their own.

It is the opposite of Ireland, this leader who will not recognize reality. And there is another obvious difference from the conditions that produced agreement in Belfast. President Clinton has not dared to lead. Mr. Clinton knows as well as any-

ooe how disastrous the Netanyahn policy is for Israel. But, unlike Irish-Americans, many in the American Jewish community have acted at Mr. Netanyahu's bidding to oppose American leadership for peace.

Most Israel follow the Irish example. and endure more decades of violence until reason breaks free?

### Time for Clinton to Back His Own Mideast Peace Initiative

TERICHO — Madeleine Al-I hright recently assured members of Congress that the U.S. administration would not make public any proposals aimed at breaking the deadlock in the peace process between Palestinians and Israelis.

Not making proposals pub-lic means that the administration will not even blame Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the stalemate between Palestinians and Israelis. As a matter of fact, Mr. Netanyahu requested that the proposals not be made public. President Yasser Arafat re-

sponded positively to the American ideas. In his reply to President Bill Clinton's letter, he reiterated his commitment to the peace process and agreements signed, and also gave a positive response to the intended American initiative,

By Saeb Erakat

American ideas, but the administration believes that confronting him will not put the peace process back on track. Instead, the administration

wants to continue with the process. Ambassador Dennis Ross may invite him to Washington. It is exactly what the prime minister of Israel wants - pro-

cess and not peace.
Since August, Secretary Albright has engaged in an effort to revive the peace process. She has met Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu six times each. Mr. Ross has come to the region in this period six times. Palestinians and Israelis have been to Washington several times.

Prime Minister Netanyahu Mr. Netanyahu wanted to Palestinian people's aspirations him as an excuse for no publicly said "no" to the wait until after the Israeli to establish a homeland on the plementing agreements.

budget was approved; then came the who-is-a-Jew ques-tion, and later the Iraqi-U.S. crisis. Now what will be Mr. Netanyahn's excuse?

In our various meetings with Secretary Albright she Secretary of State Albright may meet Mr. Netanyahu in a party which rejected American ideas. "My patience is ideas." she said. Maybe running out," she said. Maybe her finger was ready to be pointed at Mr. Arafat, but as far as Mr. Netanyahu is concerned it is another story.

Americans, Palestinians, Arabs, Europeans and even Israeintention to link Israel's security to territory. Thus, the issue is not about 9, 10, 13 or even 40 percent. The Israeli government has decided to undermine the

June 4, 1967, West Bank and Gaza Strip.

This means that Mr. Netanyahn could oot coexist with the Oslo accords, or with any peace accord based on the concept of land for peace.

Knowing that Palestinians are no match for him in the U.S. Congress and in public rela-tions, Mr. Netanyahn adopted a policy of blame for Palestinians and fear for Israelis.

The term "reciprocity" was introduced in order to enable Mr. Netanyahu not to implement commitments of the Interim Agreement and other Israeli obligations.

The Palestinian Authority, lis all know Mr. Netanyahu's as far as Mr. Netanyahu is concerned, will never do enough in the sphere of security. And there will always be something that the Palestinians will do wrong, which will be used by him as an excase for not im-

It should be noted that ac-cording to Mr. Netanyahu's "vital interest map," Israel will retain 60 percent of the West Bank. This demonstrates that his government is more interested in annexing territory than in achieving peace.

Mr. Arafat gave a positive response to the American ideas. Mr. Netanyahu said 'no." Mrs. Albright doesn't want to go public with her ideas. Dennis Ross wants more meetings. And the idea of peace is dying in the minds of Palestinians and Israelis.

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Time is crucial, and maybe it is time for President Clinton to say "yes" to the American

The writer is chief Palestinian negotiator and minister of local government in the Polestinian Authority. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

### East Asians, Too, Should Note the Anglo-Irish Way to Peace

ONDON --- The Asia-Enrope summit that ended on April 4 in London was deminated by expressions of Eurodiscussions at the summit --- those between the British and Irish prime ministers as they coordinated positions on the peace deal for Northern Ireland that

was finally concluded last Friday.

Asian leaders might have paid more attention, for the deal has some of the hallmarks of Asia's supposedly distinctive forms of conflict resolution.

The Anglo-Irish conflict, like most others, is seen by its protagonists as unique. Yet no conflict is fully unique. and there is usually something useful to be learned by watching how others negotiate. Asians will be intrigued by the "Asianness" of key parts of the Anglo-Irish deal.

East Asians are constantly trumpeting the virtues of their informal diplomacy designed to change long-term attitudes rather than reach intricate legal accords. The Anglo-Irish agreement certainly falls into the category of By Gerald Segal

pean concern for Asian woes. Little vague that each side can interpret it attention was paid to the most intense liberally and still believe that the force something to be learned here. Those stop before the negotiators can agree. of history is on its side. East Asians will also recognize the

virtue of a deal negotiated with intense informality, behind closed doors and with senior leaders using their very personal styles to reach agreement.

The accord may have more than 60 pages, but it was the personalities, especially of the prime ministers, that made the deal possible. The protagonists will count on the personal commitments of the leaders to ensure that it works in the long term. The agreement was the result of what East Asians call the rule of men, not the rule of law.

Although there was no external power that imposed a deal, there was a very useful role for external facilitators and mediators. East Asians and others might learn from this. By common consent, former U.S. Senator George Mitchell played a pivotal role, and his Canadian assistant, General Jean de ambiguous accords. Its terms are so Chastelain, was a valuable go-between.

As East Asians contemplate the value of the "good offices" of the chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum in preventive diplomacy, there is nake peace. The presence of men of violence does not require authoritarian rulers to impose peace.

Nor does all the violence need to who claim that the need to base any agreement on the comfortable consent of the parties should now see how the good offices of a sensitive chairman

can make an accord more achievable. There is also something useful to be learned from the careful ways in which cross-border arrangements are being established for narrow technical issues, such as fisheries. The idea is to build confidence by doing small-scale practical things.

As East Asians consider whether the Regional Forum should undertake serions confidence-building measures to help buttress stability and security, they should study the Northern Ireland precedent. Slow hut steady institutiooalization of diplomacy that constantly stretches the limits of agreement clearly bas its virtues.

Participants in other conflicts might also reflect that the Northern Ireland agreement shows that democracies can

(Jerusalem, take note.) One of the implicit strengths of the Irish deal is the recognition that true peace will take generations to build, and that in the meantime some violence is likely. The problems of Korea, Cambodia,

the South China Sea and China-Taiwan relations are obviously very different from Northern Ireland. There may be more appropriate lessons for the combatants in the Arab-Israeli dispute, and especially in the Cyprus problem.

But the fact that so much progress bas been made in a centuries-old conflict in a remote corner of northern Europe should be encouraging to those seeking solutions to their supposedly unique and intractable troubles.

The writer is director of studies at the International Institute for Strategic Studies and director of Britain's Pacific Asia Program. He contributed this comment to the Herald Tribune.

### Ukraine Needs to Get the Reform Effort Moving Again

WASHINGTON -- Post-Communist countries face a dilemma. As economies in transition from central planning to the open market, they must cut back drastically on massive deficits and state sub-sidies to inefficient industries. And as fledgling democracies. their citizens are, often for the first times in their lives, free to vote for their political leaders.

So elections reflect not just the citizenry's aspirations for a better future, bui also its discooteol with the near-term pain that inevitably accompanies reform. The result is often, in effect, a comeback for current or former Communists. In recent years, versions of

this scenario have played out io Poland, Lithuania, Russia and Huogary. The latest example is Ukraine, a coootry whose stability and security matter profoundly to Europe and the United States. In elections on March 30,

ago, the Communist Party led the balloting in a majority of localities and won the largest bloc of seats in the Parliament. Its stated policy goals include the reversal of some key elcments of Ukraine's privatization program, as well as partial renationalization of industry and the banking system. The United States has sup-

ported political and economic

reform in Ukraine since the

country gained independence in

1991, and it views the election

results with concern. However,

the ability of the Communist

Party to turn back the clock is

By Strobe Talbott severely limited. Ukraine's its next test in 18 months, in the

need for access to international investment capital and development assistance is likely to prove stronger than the sireo song of a bankrupt ideology.

The IMF and the World Bank have made clear that they will they believe will earn favor with

withhold further support until Ukraine makes progress on some long-postponed reforms. Most important are restructuring of the energy and agricultural sectors, imposition of greater discipline in government spending, and measures to control widespread corruption.
On her visit to Kiev last

month. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright urged Ukraine's leaders to take those hard but necessary steps. Otherwise. Ukraine will be unable to provide hope of prosperity for its citizens and to integrate with the outside world.

These twin disabilities could put Ukrainian security in jeopardy. Ukraine is in certain respects a fragile state. The higgest source of its fragility is an eco-nomy that repels rather than altracts foreign investment and has so far failed to produce the kind of benefits that people in other post-Communist societies have begun to take for granted. After the elections, the crit-

ical question is whether the Par-

liament will work with Pres-

ident Leonid Kuchma in the

larger interest of the country to

get economic reform moving

October 1999 presidential election. Officials from both the legislative and the executive branches may be tempted to defer difficult decisions so that they can say and do things that

demagoguery, empty promises and inaction on economic re-form will make things that much worse in October 1999. While there is cause for concero about what lies ahead, there are reasons for optimism as well. In the seven years since independence. Ukraine has made some hrave, forwardlooking decisions, from joining the nonproliferation weaty as a non-nuclear-weapons state in 1994 to ceasing all cooperation

the voters. Finger-pointing,

reaching out across divides of history and geography to its neighbors, particularly Russia. Even the latest elections contained encouraging signs that Ukrainians are dealing with their ethnic and cultural differences through peaceful, democratic means.

with Iran's nuclear program and

The results indicate that members of the Russian- and Polish-speaking minorities tended to cast their ballots for candidates on the basis of their stands on issues, not on the basis of ethnicity. That helps rebut the prophets of doom who predicted that it would be on the rocks of ethnic separatism that the Ukrainian ship of state Ukrainian democracy faces would founder.

These examples of good citizenship are incentives for the major industrial democracies to continue their support for Ukrainian reform. For the United States, that

means maintaining an array of programs that have made Ukraine the fourth-largest recipient of American assistance in the world - and the No. 1 recipient in the former Soviet

It is in its own interest for the United States to belp Ukraine achieve its potential to be a secure, democratic, prosperous, self-confident state, fully integrated into the Euro-Atlantic community. But Ukraine's leaders must do more to help as help them.

The writer is U.S. deputy secretary of state. He contributed this to The Washington Post.

### IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Row in Congress NEW YORK -- Congress

called for immediate and forcible intervention by the President, but avoided asking for Cuban independence. A scene of indescribable violence occurred in the House. All the agony of the last two weeks broke loose at once. Members began to speak all at the same time, and then flew at each other's throats. Heavy books were hurled about and members rushed up and down the aisles yelling like madmen. Fists were clenched and more than one blow was struck.

1923: Seamstress Strike

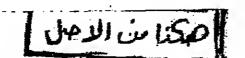
PARIS -- The "midinettes" employed by the dressmakers of Paris are on the warpath, demanding an increase in wages. Good humor is ever the rule among "midinettes." But it is a case of smiling faces put upon a serious situation. Having thrown stresses are resolved not to pick, them up again until they have obtained satisfaction. In a word, the springtime activity of the dressmaking establishments, al- : ways at its beight in April, has been brought to a standstill.

#### 1948: French Labor PARIS — France's new non-

Communist labor organization,

the General Confederation of Labor-Force Ouvrière, was born yesterday [April 13] toward the close of a constituent congress attended by 1,435 delegates representing more than a million. workers. The name was selected: to support the claim that the organization has become the true representative of French labor.; Its component unions withdrewlast December from the Communist-led General Confederation of Labor (CGT). The sloganof the new organization is "freedom from all political control.

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**OPINION/LETTERS** 

# صحدا من الاعل

# dle East?

Now Oxio is dying. And anyone pre-pared to look at the realities without bias knows why. An Israeli prine min-denends on the summer. isser who depends on the support of religious-nationalist altras wanton of all clse to stay in office. If that mean kalling the chance for peace, so be in Benjamin Netanyahu's quibbling the chance form this or that wanton the state of t

shout withstrawal from this or that per centage of the West Bank only on centage of the West Bank only on centage of the matter. That is the he of papers any solution that would gree the Pakestinians a viable state gree the randamental poor, dominated by k

It is the opposite of Ireland, the leader who will not recognize realing And there is a rether obvious difference from the conditions that produced agreement in Belfast, President Climos

Mr Chaiga knows as well as an nee how discourses the Netanyaha profitsy is for Israel. But, unlike lish Appearance many in the American lewish community have acted at M Metanyana's redding to oppose and was leadership for near

Mast israel tollow the bish comple and enders more decades of violence BRE TEEDS brooks from  $T > 5 > \chi_1 + \chi_{2n}$ 

### ace Initiative

It should be noted that a. nk and It should be moved that a conding to Mr. Nothingthe map, I had will retain the forcest of the West Bank This demensirate ST WILL ath arm that his poverement is the on the . and while the state of the second that market and seas Will Am. Mr. All V gave a biston he tab. and the second s Martin Martin Programme Republication of the Authority Training Att. to they Acres 644 - T Prince of the first first Print mare verbiere. the in AREL TA The second states the boundary of the state of the the second of the Arms PAKIN 114 450 THE TAX W 18.11 p pro 72 18 19 . / . . . . . W 645 2. Estat in the second of the

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What to Do When the Old Labels Don't Apply? WASHINGTON—In his
"New Political Dictionary," the lexicologist and all issues and arguments over quently revolves around all issues and arguments over quently revolves around get is one of the crowning clares that the era of big government is over. Parlor Pinks, Comsymps, Fellow Travelers and Bomb Throwers engaged in fierce ideological combat with Running Dogs, Plutocrats, Fascist Pigs and Little Old Ladies in

Tennis Shoes. Those battlefields are quiet now, and the rhetorical conversation between left and right in America is usually more genteel. The collapse of talism is the only alternative, or the "bad" position to take communism in the Soviet Untral Left has little to on the matter? Even feminists tioo and Eastern Europe, disillusionment with socialism to talk about money. Its prinin the Third World and the cipal enemy is a mind-set coming commonplace as old spread of capitalism around the globe have demoralized radicals of the left, deprived radicals of the right of an animating cause and altered the vocabulary of politics.

A new world has emerged from the Cold War in which issues and labels of the past seem both quaint and inappropriate.

During most of the 20th entury the great question was which economic system would prevail. That has been enswered: capitalism.

There are still distribution-

Regarding "The Cyprus

Mess (Editoriol, April 2):

The editorial is correct in

aying that Turkey reacted

'excessively' to the de-

ision by the European Union

as the editorial suggests, it is

not the result of any "fumble"

of Turkish belligerence. While the Turkish occupa-

date status. Turkey's failure

I CAN NOW

by the EU but the consequence

adons with Cyprus.

On Cyprus

system, but no serious Amer- economic issues. And this ican politician even contem- causes problems for us jourplates much less proposes nalists as we decide what la-alternatives to the "free bels to hang on the politicians market."

Even the intellectual class cues, positive or negative, we is tongne-tied on the question, send to the audience. writes Richard Rorty, a University of Virginia historian example involves the sexual of leftist thought: "When the Right proclaims that socialism has failed and that capisay in reply. For it prefers not are divided. (sexism, racism, homopbohia and so on) rather than a set of "Conservative" Republiand so on) rather than a set of economic arrangements.

It is as if the distribution of income and wealth bad become too scary a topic for any American politician - much less any sitting president ever to mention. ... So the insisted that the balanced-choice between the two major budget fetlsb was foolish, a parties has come down to a reactionary device to cut off choice between cynical lies the good works produced by and terrified silence."

At the same time, the Republican House speaker, Newt Gingrich, who had

After the Cold War, the old political tags seem quaint and inappropriate.

that the "moral imperative of fighting poverty" should take precedence over halancing the budget. Who are the 'conservatives' and 'liberals" of this tale?

fare. "Liberal" Democrats Through most of this cen-'conservative' was popularly defined as a defoe of big government; a "liberal" was an agent of change, using the carrot and stick of But he is correct that ideo- protest signed off on the most about. Now Republicans, as logical conflict today fre- unbalanced budgets in peace- agents of change, attack the

Cambodia in 1992-1993.

There is a sad sense of déja vu

to the situation today, with

one significant difference, In 1992-1993, the refugees re-

turned before elections were

beld. Today most statements

ernment is over. As "extremists" and "radicals" have become

more scarce in the '90s, usage preached balanced-budget of the once respectable labels doctrine for years, sup- of "liberal" and "conserva-posedly was telling friends tive" bas taken oo a pejorarive tinge. The old breed of "liberal" Republicans is almost extinct; factions in the Republican Party are now identified by their varying degrees of conservatism. And for a lot of liberal Democrats, "progressive" is the new label of choice.

Morris Udall was one of the pioneers in this shift, according to Mr. Safire's etymology. Mr. Udall told The Washington Post's David Broder in 1976: "When a word takes on connotations you don't like, it's time to change the label." He wanted to be called a "progressive" because "liberal" was "asfender of the status quo and a sociated with abortion, drugs, busing and big-spending wasteful government."

For those and other reasons, the liberal label is used far less frequently today. The "conservative" label is also in decline but still used nearly twice as ofteo as "liberal" in The Post.

By the usage test, the "radical left" is an endangered species everywhere in the world. That phrase, my computer reports, appeared only 18 times in the 68,675 stories published in The Post over the past year. In the same period the "radical right" was re-ferred to 127 times, but this is not the anti-Communist 'radical right' we knew in decades past; the label is oow attached to and-abortionists, survivalists and militias, none of wbom have any interest in vilifying Marxism.

Journalists never have handled their labeling tasks with great precision or accuracy. Often we fling labels around with only the fuzziest notions of what they mean or what we are trying to convey to the audience. The task gets harder all the time and would seem to demand some study. But edocating the labor force has never been a high priority of the news business.

The Washington Post.

### America's Weird Gun Culture: A Weapons Ban Isn't Enough

By Lucian K. Truscott 4th

OS ANGELES — Growing up as rifle, the Kel-Tec Sub-9 folding carbine, an army brat in the 1950s and '60s, I which informed readers that a test-firing of National Rifle Association.

When I was 12, I started competing in NRA-sponsored shooting contests every Saturday morning. When I was 13, 1 was given my first single-shot 16-gauge sbotgun as a Christmas present and started

#### **MEANWHILE**

going hunting with my father and brother in the forests surrounding the army posts and small rural towns where we lived.

At 18, I went to West Point and qualified as an expert marksman on the M-14 rifle, M-16 rifle and .45-caliber pistol. Later, in the army, I taught classes in the safe use of those and many other weapons.

I have got no objections to owning guns. What bothers me is how the culture of guns has changed in America.

1 support President Bill Clinton's decision last week to ban the import of 58 types of military assault weapons. But I question bow much of an effect this will bave.

A recent tour of gun-culture sites on the Internet and a perusal of 10 gun magazines revealed that the United States is already flooded with legal sniper rifles and military-style submachine guns, along with the information and technology necessary to convert them to be fully automatic.

It is not abnormal today for individual gun owners to have 50 or more guns - the approximate number of weapons an entire infantry platoon would carry. These gun fanatics are not veterans or interested in joining the military or even a local paramilitary group.

Instead, they prefer to playact roles in a fantasy military and spend weekends at "practical shooting" courses, a term that entered the national lexicon when it was reported that one of the children arrested in the Jonesboro, Arkansas, killings had attended such courses with his father.

I have been to a "pracocal sbooting" course, in Louisiana. You walk through the sbooting range as human-silhonette targets pop up. You fire at the silhouettes, knocking down and "killing" the targets as you go. It is practical only as military training to kill human beings. For reasons that escape me entirely, an

entire subculture has developed around sniper rifles. A gun enthusiast of my acquaintance prondly constructed his own sniper rifle from a separate barrel, trigger assembly, bolt action and stock. He uses the word "sniper" in his e-mail address.

magazine had a long feature on a sniper this comment to The New York Times.

could have been a poster boy for the the Sub-9 produced a result "good enough for a head shot at 100 yards and quite good enough (if you get the bullet drop right) for a body shot at 150-plus yards."

Shooting rifles at bull's-eyes in competidon can be loads of fun. Going bunting after rabbits with a shotgun can be challenging. Other weapons are useful for selfdefense. I still own two guns: a small-caliber revolver my wife used to carry when we lived in a bad neighborhood in New Orleans, and a .357 Magnum revolver I picked up at a gun show for \$85. I once carried it into a bousing project to recover our stolen car.

But today guns do not need to have a purpose — they are a way of life in and of themselves. And the NRA defends that idea every time it insists that people have a right to own an assault weapon.

When the NRA spends millions of dollars to lobby against laws that stipulate mandatory gun-safety courses or that create a system to license guns, it is encouraging an irresponsible gun culture that supplants responsible gun ownership.

When you enter the army, you spend a week on weapons safety procedures and learn to assemble, disassemble and clean your weapon. Only then does a team of expert marksmen take you to a supervised firing range and teach you how to shoot it.

Compare the army's training with laws in states like Arkansas, where it is legal for a 10-year-old to own a semiautomatic assault weapon without a moment of safety instruction, training in how to shoot it or adult

The NRA is determined to preserve these 'rights" and will no doubt challenge the president's proposed ban, with the usual argument that it will lead to a ban on all guns.

What the NRA actually accomplishes is making sniper rifles, submachine guns and the \$89 Russian Army rifle I recently saw advertised by a sporting goods chain as freely available as a common shotgun. Right now, there may be laws against

converting semiautomatic assault weapons into fully automatic ones. But they are doing oothing to deter the gun nuts who sell that technology on the Internet.

For President Clinton's ban to be meaningful, it needs to be backed up by laws with real teeth: long prison terms for people who violate the laws we have, for those who take gun culture fantasy and turn it into fully automatic reality.

The writer is the author of several novels ord "sniper" in his e-mail address. about the U.S. Army, including the forth-A recent issue of Guns & Ammo coming "Full Dress Gray." He contributed

#### There are echoes of the Yet the Reagan adminis-1930s in Mr. Rorty's rhetoric. tration, with only feeble big government to bring it

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

to qualify was a self-inflicted Nonsectarian Woes

With regard to Cyprus, the EU has made a bold and constructive decision. In so doing, it shares with the government of Cyprus and the United States the view that to launch accession negotithe accession process can become the necessary catalyst Ankara's threat to annex toward resolving the Cyprus

the sovereign territory of the Republic of Cyprus that it has All prefer to see a united illegally occupied since 1974 Cyprus enter the European and its "talk of war" and Union but, as Foreign Sec-"military gestures" in the re- retary Robin Cook of Britain gion constitute irrational, and said, the government of Nicodangerous, behavior that can sia cannot achieve a settlehardly improve Turkey's ment by itself. It requires the prospects for joining the participation and cooperation European Union. Ultimately of the Turkish Cypriot comit is counterproducove. munity as well. If there is a "Cyprus mess,"

MILTOS MILTIADOU. Washington.

The writer is spokesman for the Embassy of Cyprus.

tion of Cyprus has been Turkey may be in defiance widely condemned, the fail- of United Nations resolutions ure of the international com- over its occupation of northmunity to pressure Ankara to era Cyprus, but that does not abide by the decisions of the qualify the Greek Cypriots to couraged further Turkish ar- population.

The two peoples are politrogance toward its oeighbors and now toward the European ical equals: The 1960 independence declaradon was The Turks were not "ingranted on this basis. spltingly denied" EU candi-

B. BEECH. Brussels.

we write about and which

An obvious cootemporary

behavior of the president.

What is the "liberal" or "conservative," the "good"

cans, for example, once had a

near monopoly on the polit-

ical position that balanced

budgets are as essential as

oxygen to the national wel-

deficit spending.

Regording "Blair Flics to Ulster as Tolks Hit a Snag" (April 8):

The article refers to "800

years of sectarian violence" between Irish Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. The Reformation, however, began roughly 500 years ago. Perhaps issues of colonization, division and control, all clearly political and secular, should be considered. AUGUSTIN McEVOY. Lausanne, Switzerland.

#### Cambodia Refugees

limelight, the editorial is right to draw attention to the need for the international community to insist on the restoration of democracy there.

But the editorial failed to mention a vital condition for civilians are living in refugee free and fair elections: a last- camps next door? ing cessation of hostilities would permit of the 62,000 Cambodian refugees currently sheltered in Thailand.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees organized the repatriation of 370,000 refugees from Thailand to Fatwa Remains

KAL PROMOTE SAN

in support of the Cambodian elections, planned for July, ignore the fact that the Carnbodians in Thailand's Surin and Trat provinces will, for all practical purposes, be disenfranchised. The presence of Cambodian refugees oo Thai soil is a stark reminder of the military acovides still going on in Cambodia today. By remov-ing the return of the refugees

Regording "Keep Heot on from the agenda, the inter-Hun Sen" (Editorial, April national community seems to With Cambodia again in the sation of hostilities should not preclude elections. But what is the value of

elections beld against a backdrop of continuing fighting? What sort of democracy can be established when 62,000 FRANCOIS FOUINAT.

The writer is director of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' regional bureau for Asia and the Pocific.

Regarding "Toward Nor-mal Links Between Iran and Americo" (Opinion, March 31) by Stanley A. Weiss, ond We Need More Than Khatami's Welcome Words" (Opinion, March 31) by

If it is a fact, as Mr. Weiss assures us, that "the Islamic 'revolution for export' died on June 3, 1989, and is buried along with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini," bow is it that the author Salman Rusbdie is still under the death sentence of the Ayatollah Khomeini's BEROL ROBINSON.

Meudon, France. Lesters intended for pub-

lication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature. name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

### **CROSSWORD**

54 Old musical 28 Up to now 22 One NCO **ACROSS** producer's annual contest? so Kind of phone 1 White House's 33 I am, to Caesar Secretary of State Hamilton — Room 34 With anticipat 27 Spa in Germany 5 Crafts 37 Celebraties may 29 Welrd: Var. 16 Pronto put them on 61 Payloy and 30 Studies into the 14 Close 35 Where a TV Lendi 15 Society's 400 lawyer keeps 62 --- piece 34 Movis Lioness 16 Talkative bird (Safire column) 32 City on the Phône and sa I lke a certain 17 Data 41 Cunning 18 Alaska native 42 Transylvania's Saone 64 Brown tone 19 Yemen neighbor locale: Var. 35 Greek sendwich 43 Bat wood 20 Actress's sports 36 Birds now raised bird 44 Famous Hart os Fasence 23 Gymnastics once "Cleans 45 Crow 67 Ore analysis equipment 49 Stocking shade 65 28 A like a while 24 50's-60's pop 51 Champagne designation tomado\* vocalist — DOWN as Stance \_\_said to the 39 Museum features (joke line) 1 Mystery 40 One of the family 2 Virgil hero --- Four Solution to Puzzle of April 13 3 Two-point score 4 1982 Disney 44 Actor Gibson **WOAIS** s Fort ---, Md. 45 Links championship

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TOTABACE

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11 Formal meetings

© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz.

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On Wednesday, April 29, 1998, to mark the 50th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, the International Herald Tribune will publish a Special Report on

### SRAEL at

er ee --

Y THE TIME people or nations reach the age of 50, there is usually a sense of certainty about them; they have an image of themselves as mature, established, maybe even comfortable. But Israel is very much still a work in progress; a country of extraordinary achievements and unresolved problems; a tiny country that has nevertheless held the world's center stage for all of its turbulent childhood, adolescence and now adulthood.

To take the measure of Israel as it turns 50, the IHT has assembled a distinguished group of journalists, historians and politicians.

Glenn Frankel, the Pulitzer-Prize winning Washington Post correspondent and author of "Beyond the Promised Land," will provide an overview assessment of how much progress Israel has made in resolving the internal contradictions and

external challenges that have confronted, and still confront, the Jewish state.

Tom Segev, the Israeli historian, journalist and author of the widely acclaimed history "The Seventh Million," will scan the record of these past 50 years, examining the creation and evolution of the country's identity, the role of Zionism, the conflicts and quests for peace with the Arabs within and outside Israel's borders. Zeev Chafets, the novelist and popular columnist for the Jerusalem Report, will

provide a glimpse into daily life in Israel today. Josef Joffe, the columnist and Editorial Page Editor of the Suddeutsche Zeitung, and John Goshko, the United Nations correspondent of The Washington Post, will take a look at two of Israel's closest and most interesting relationships; one with Germany and the other with America's Jewish community.

Joseph Fitchett, the IHT's political and security correspondent, will evaluate the regional balance of power in the Middle East and how that might shape Israel's

Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, the well-known Arab scholar and author, and president of the Al-Ouds University in East Jerusalem, will write about life today and hopes for tomorrow for Palestinians in Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Neal Sandler, an economic correspondent, will examine Israel's evolution from low-tech to high-technology center, looking at the state of its high-tech industries and their overall impact on the economy.

For more information about advertising in this Special Report, please contact Bill Mahder in Paris at (33-1) 41 43 93 78 or fax (33-1) 41 43 92 13 or e-mail: supplements@iht.com.



THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER www.iht.com





Tiffany Dubin, head of Sotheby's fashion department, with a Warhol-inspired paper dress. Halston tie-dye caftan and Rudi Gernreich swimsuits; a photo of the model Twiggy by Gosta Peterson, which sold for \$3,000.

By Suzy Menkes International Herald Tribune

EW YORK - Time to spring-clean your closets, to chuck out all those out-ofdate, don't-fit clothes and aging accessories. Those ridiculous white Courreges ankle boots. OUT! That beat-up Hermes Kelly bag. OUT! And especially the washed-up Rudi

Gernreich swimsuit from the 1960s. WHOOPS! That bag of garbage was worth \$10,000 bucks. Those were the way-over-estimate prices earned by the three items at Sotheby's New York last

Although the "Nothing to Wear" suction sale on Wednesday was supposed to be about turning clothes into collectibles, you can't help thinking dollars and cents. If a red wool dress and jacket from Christian Dior went for \$43,125 after lurking in the back of some closet for 39 years, wouldn't it be smart to buy a few outfits today and lay them down like fine wine?

Or better still, riffle through the racks and send a bunch of stuff off to Sotheby's - and make enough to buy 10 new dresses?

Tiffany Dubin, the expert in charge and instigator of the auction house's secood fashion sale, is at pains to point out that things aren't quite like that.

They have to be key pieces or from an extremely interesting designer whose work transcends mere clothing." she said to explain the criteria for judging what was worthy to be in-cluded in the 195-piece sale, which was glossily catalogued and dramatically displayed at the York Avenue premises in Manhattan.

The sale included historic, connois-seur's pieces from Mariano Fortuny, Elsa Schiaparelli and Charles Frederick Worth, early work by Yves Saint Laurent (which was bought by the Paris house for its future museum in Paris) and collector's items from fashion phog tographs through Louis Vuitton trunks and those 1965 Courreges boots. But whereas the first sale in October 1997 concentrated on haute couture, "Nothing to Wear" was eclectic.

For this department to survive, we need to diversify," Dubin said, "It's not just about clothes, but anything to do with the world of fashion; books,

dolls, drawings, photography."
The idea of fashion as art bas been a ·leitmotiv of the 1990s, so it was no surprise to find that an Andy Warholinspired paper dress printed with Campbell's Soup cans should go for \$6,900. Or that a limited edition of James Rosenquist's paper suit should make \$1,725.

Yet the significance of the sale is that included many items from the 1970s that until recently could have been found in thrift shops — or may still be in the back of mom's closet: a tie-dye caftan by Halston; dresses from Chloe, Zandra Rhodes and Giorgio Sant' Angelo, and a kitsch cream plastic telephone handbag, which sold for \$2,587 estimate \$500 to \$700).

The sale totaled \$515,372. Dubin said that prices for 1950s to 1970s

'went wild," proving that "we are a fashion, not a costume, department.' The results suggest that Sotheby's is attracting a generation that sees no stigma, but rather a cachet, in dressing as a Secondhand Rose.

There is nothing so new about selling vintage fashion, even at auc-tion. The market has until now been held by a bandful of international dealers and pioneered at anction by William Doyle in New York. But the imprimatur of Sotheby's and the fact that Dubin's department is treating the sales like decorative art gives fashion at auction a new dimension. The sales may even be creating a new client base that existing departments cannot

"The kind of client who comes here to look at a Sarah Moon photograph would not go though 1,000 lots in a photographic sale, "Dubin said. "This will introduce them in a gentle way to the auction process and make it user-

Critics of the sales are more cynical.

One dealer claimed (off the record) that there is no real market for high-priced fashion at auction, apart from museums, and that Sotheby's sales are just loss leaders to promote the company or to seek out hip, young, wealthy clients who can then be tapped for more se-

AMISH BOWLES, an editor at American Vogne, says he is a private collector who started buying vintage cou-ture clothes because he is fascinated by the history of costume and it seemed "logical to collect elements of fashion

history."

"There is a finite number of collectors, but I am absolutely not alone," he said, while admitting that "it is one of the least practical things," because of the problems of storage and care of fragile fashions and textiles.

Bowles suggests that Sotheby's sales are aimed less at collectors than at

sales are aimed less at collectors than at "extremely well-heeled fashion-con-scious Upper East Side girls."

The idea — promulgated by Hollywood stars who wear vintage elothing — is to add a 20-year-old little black Chanel dress or a Gucci suede trench coat to a modern wardrobe, Indeed, all the potential clients previewing the sale on the previous Saturday were treating the purses, travel bags, ewelry and hats as though they were items on the sale floor at Barneys,

But just in case you are thinking of selling, not buying, this is Dubin's advice: Don't call her, photograph your potential sale item; don't bother unless it has a designer label; add all the details of purchase and provenance; try to find a magazine picture to give it credibility and documentation.

And yes. Sotheby's might take a significant item from the 1980s, like early Comme des Garcons, Jean Paul Gaultier or anything from Martin Margiela. As to what will be a collectible from the 1990s, Dubin has that all sewn up: Look for the underwear that Kate Moss wore in the Calvin Klein ads as the collector's item of the future.



Self-portrait of Karl Lagerfeld at the book table in his newly opened gallery in Paris.

# Lagerfeld, Up Close and Personal

By Suzy Menkes

ARIS - How does Karl Lagerfeld describe the very personal store — all varnished old wood floors and precisely framed photographs - that he opened on the Left Bank last week?

"I don't like the pretentious note of Art Gallery with a capital A," the designer said as he arranged books on a circular oak table. "But gallery sounds bener than shop, because it is not a commercial operation — it's something more private.

So Lagerfeld Gallery it is, written in thin, modernist script above the door at 40 Rue de Seine, where the polymath designer has realized his dream: to create in the heart of Paris an intellectualcum-artistic space that is also a showcase for his work.

People are encouraged to browse through the books, look at the grainy, tinted photographs, try on a pair of sunglasses, purchase a Fendi bag or slip into an outfit or two. A capsule col-lection of men's and women's clothes (with Fendi furs added for the fall) is on sale down the slate-paved stairs.

The overall effect is of a stylish library, masculine in feel, with its color tones of chocolate brown and cream, its uptumed-saucer lights ("maid's bed-

room lamps"), the antique, decorative cast-iron radiator and restored oak cabinets conserved from the building's previous life as a French publishing house. Tactile carved wooden male and female sculptures stand sentinel at the door. 'l didn'i want chichi tasie - just

because I have powdered hair, should I live like a marquis?" Lagerfeld asked. "I've already got tons of places like that and I'm for turning pages — we are in fashion.

In a "close working relationship" with his interior designer friend, Andree Putman, Lagerfeld converted the 400square-meter (4,300-square-foot) space, carving out an office for himself at the back, linked by a wide corridor to the street-window side, with the basement fashion area below.

From a memory of a tennis club in Biarritz, he has created benches below the hanging rails where potential customers can put down their things, leaving the hands free. The central two-tier wedding-cake of a table is an idea taken from his own homes ("I can't live without big tables") as are the small, nailstudded stools.

Since Lagerfeld says that he now poetic pictures of a house on the wilder a private luxury."

shores of Capri, each image one-of-a-kind and colored by a century-old printing technique to look like paintings, their frames stained to the same hues. All the photographs have a narrative style, like freeze-frames from an ongoing story, whether in a series of por-traits each featuring the same diamond broocb or the advertising campaign for Lagerfeld's new men's fragrance.

Surprisingly, the gallery seems less self-promotional than the more commercial designer stores. It looks more like a bookshop in a quiet provincial town. Will Lagerfeld be mein host, cutting

back on his busy schedule to spend time at the gallery and greet the browsers?

This 1 never know — 1 like the idea, the designer said, but admitted that he is now off to photograph advertising campaigns for Fendi and for Hugo Boss - not to mention designing

a new collection for Chancl. And what about a series of Lagerfeld Galleries in other capital cities? "It would be difficult to have the

Left Bank somewhere else - it's a flavor you cannot export," he said, "I wouldn't make a fake French gallery - if I did it in Berlin or New York, it spends up to 50 percent of his time on would have a different atmosphere. photography, it seems inevitable that. But I don't want it to be a huge busithe gallery space should focus on that finess. I'm not about to go on the stock work. The main room has a series of , market. This is not about numbers; it is

مكان الامل

#### SOLIBO MAGNIFICENT

By Patrick Chamoiseau, Translated by Rose-Marie Rejouis and Val Vinokurov. 191 pages. \$23.00. Pantheon.

Reviewed by Richard Bernstein

SOLIBO the storyteller, the central figure of Patrick Chamoiseau's "Solibo Magnificent," dies on the very first page of this tragicomic novel of Martinican Creoles, and he dies in an impossible way - "snickt by the word," as Chamoiseau puts it, exclaiming: Patat' sa! ... That potato! Snickt - not exactly nicked or slit but

a little of both. The word is a clue to Chamoiseau's purpose and a sign of the definess of the translation of this novel from French and Creole by Rose-Myriam Rejouis and Val Vinokurov. Snickt, of course, will not be found in the dictionary, and yet it has such a precise, onomatopoeic ring to it that we are pretty much unconscious of its official nonexistence. In this sense it suggests not just Chamoiseau's sly inventiveness but also the otherness, the invisible genius of the people that Chamoiseau has burst on the scene to portray. "Solibo Magnificent" centers on the poignant untranslatability of two cultures, one represented by the Francophone police of Martinique, the other by the deceased

storyteller's Creole admirers. In her Afterword, Rejouis informs us that snickt is a rendering of Chamoiscau's original egorgette, which is itself a neologism in Freoch. Snickt, in other words, is a linguistic invention in one language that perfectly incarnates a inguistic invention in another. It prefigures the surreal preposterousness of Chamoiseau's Creole world, whose qualities, normal to its inhabitants, will seem as if viewed through a deforming lens by outsiders. But it also shows that a story about untranslatability can, in fact, be translated. That single word snickt, like Chamoiseau's novel, is a treat.

Chamoiseau and his co-translators are making their second appearance in English Last year, I waxed rhapsodic about "Texaco." It is the rich, dazzling, mock-epic telling of the pre- and postslavery history of Martinique, and it signaled Chamoiseau's arrival on the scene as a major literary figure.

"Solibo Magnificent" comes before

'Texaco'' in Chamoiseau's still short list of works. It is a kind of precursor book, not as grand or as astonishing as the later work but standing on all fours as a demonstration of Chamoiseau's striking originality. In form it is a rauc-ous, verbally luxuriant parody of a police mystery. It shows the ham-handed, culturally blinkered members of the local gendarmerie investigating the curious death of Solibo, whom they assume to be a murder victim. The police specifically are Chief Sergeant Philemon Bouaffesse (a bit of French wordplay suggesting something like wooden backside) and Chief Inspector Evariste Pilon, a more probing and probative figure than Bouaffesse but, in the early stages at least, no more insightful.

### **BOOKS**

Bouaffesse and Pilon treat the several witnesses to Solibo's death as suspects. These include Chamoiscau himself, who has been carrying out an ethnographic investigation of Creole storytelling and self-mockingly describes himself as a word scratcher. "No, not writer: word scratcher, it makes a huge difference, Inspekder.") Each of the witness-suspects tells his vision of Solibo and why he had long before earned the appellation Magnificent. As they do so, the gap between the Frenchified world of the police (who are, like all of the characters in this book, what Chamoiseau calls "blackmen''l and the semi-French semi-Creole world of Solibo yawns ever

What killed Solibo, as it turns out,

was not a murderer but the choking off. of a form of aesthetic wealth, the cultural richness of a people, which, to his credit; Chief Inspector Pilon finally comes to understand. "What do you think 'snickt by the word' is?" Pilon asks after the fruitless interrogations of Chamoiseau's, tribe of local people has finished. The answer: "Solibo wanted to inscribe his words in our ordinary life, but our life no, longer had ears nor hollows where an echo would abide eternal.

This might sound as though "Solibo Magnificent" is didactic in tone, but it is not. Whatever cultural lesson Chamoiseau wants to impart is too well embedded in a funny, earthy, verbally luxuriant narrative to come across as a lesson in post-colonial politics. New York Times Service

### CH.

17 Qg3

By Robert Byrne

N his Round 3 encounter with the Bulgarian grandmaster Veselin Topatov in the supertournament at Linares, Spain, Alexei Shirov showed off the blazing tactical style that makes him so feared.

The Paulsen Variation of the Sicilian

Defense, 4...a6, keeps a low profile to make it difficult for White to find targets of anack. It also gives Black flexibility in piece development. But Black cannot go on forever without seizing more terrain.

Driving back the d4 knight with

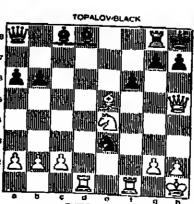
5...Qb6 6 Nb3 forestalls an early white
attack by pieces. The possible gambit
with 6 Be3!? may not be sound after

6...Qb2 7 Nbd2 Be5.

After 9...Be7, the game had transposed into a Scheveningen Variation, but Veselin Topalov was in for a little surprise: 10 e5!? It can be seen after 10...de 1t fe Nfd7 12 Bf4 Nc6 13 O-O

that Shirov was offering a gambit, accepted by 13...Nde5. What was his compensation for the pawn after 16...O-O, with Topalov also having the bishop pair? The key was his 17 Qg3!, which threatened 18 Bh6. If 17...f5, then 18 No4!? fe 19 Bh6 Rf7 20 Rf7 Kf7 21 Qg7 Ke8 22 Rd1! Bd7 23

Qg8 forces mate.



Position after 30 . . . Rg8

ŀ	ESS			
		SICILIAN	DEFENSI	E
	White Shirov 1 e4 2 N73 3 d4 4 N04 5 Bd3 6 Nb3 7 Qe2 2 Nc3 9 I4 10 e5 11 fe 12 Bf4 13 0-0 14 Raet 15 Kh/ 16 Qd3	Black Topalov c5 e6 cd a6 Qc7 Nf6 d6 Be7 de NId7 Nc6 Nd3 0-0	White Shirrov 18 Bc7 19 Na4 20 Bb6 21 Bc7 22 Nb6 24 Rd1 25 Bd6 26 Nc5 27 Ne4 28 Be5 29 Qg4 31 Qf3 31 Qf3 32 Nd8 33 Nd8 33 Nd8 33 Nd8	Biaci Topale Qa7 t6 Qa7 e5 Qa8 Re8 Bd8 Nd4 Nf3 Rg8 Nd1 Qa7 Qd7

When Topalov defended his king carefully with 17...Kh8, Shirov shifted to the other wing with 18 Bc7! Qa7 19 Na4; there was no way for Topalov to avoid losing a rook for a minor piece and

So Topalov sensibly set up a strong center with 19...f6 and 22...e5, and arranged to prevent a simplifying exchange of bishops with 24...Re8 and 25...Bd8.
After 27 Ne4!, Topalov tried to prevent 28 Ba3 and 29 Nd6, But his 27...Nd4. was brilliantly shartered by Shirov's 28

Be5! The sacrificed bishop could not be taken because of 28... fe 29 Nd6! Bd7

(29... Rg8? 30 Nf7 mate) 30 Ne8 Be8 31 Rf8 mate. Accordingly, Topalov tried 28. Nf5. perhaps hoping for 29 Rf5? Qe4!, but Shirov was ready with the wild and wonderful 29 Qg4! Ne3! (29...fe 30 Rf5 Be7 31 Qf3 Bf5 32 Qf5 Qc6 33 Qd7 Qd7 34 Rd7 Rd8 35 Rd8 Bd8 36 g4 yields

White an endgame advantage 30 Qh5. Qc6! 31Rd6! Bg4 32 Rc6 Bh5 33 Rel. Ng2 34 Kg2 Re5 35 Rd6 by which White holds endgame superiority. Topalov relied on 30 Rg8, but after Shirov's 31 Qf3! Nd1 (31 Nf1 or 31...Bb7 loses to the same move played now) 32 Nd6! Qa7 33 Nc8 Qd7 34 Nd6. he gave up because his knight was

trapped whereas the white minor pieces were immune. Thus, 34...h6 35 Rdl fe36 Nf7 drops the black queen.

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CURRENCY &

AS OF MAY 27: 5x A WEEK ZURICH-SAN FRANCISCO NONSTOP

Swissair the refreshing of the

activities, particularly on production,

are likely to continue to be strong for the time being," the bank said in its April

report, because "the level of inventories

is high, and a conspicuous recovery in domestic private demand is unlikely.

even after a one-time income-tax cut of

2 trillion yen enacted in Fehruary, the

prices had continued to decline and con-

sumer prices had nearly stopped rising.
It made no mention of the possible effect of income-tax rebates valued at 4

trillion yen that were announced Thurs-

day, merely noting that an economic

stimulus package in the works should be

fell Monday for the second consecutive

trading day as investors judged the tax-

rebate proposal too weak.

The benchmark No.182 government bond maturing in September 2005 rose 71 yen for each 50,000 yen in face value,

reducing its yield to 1.58 percent from

1.60 percent Friday. The Nikkei 225-stock average closed at 16,317.50

The government is planning to work

ont the details of its latest economic

stimulus package hy next week, in time

points, down 163.60, or 1 percent.

Japanese bond prices rose and stocks

Consumption remained stagnant

The bank also said that wholesale

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1998

PAGE 11



Richard Li, helow, who developed Asia's lirst satellite cable-television service, STAR TV, wants to provide Internet services in Asia. Here is where he plans to

			perce	intage of	Percentag people us the intern	ing
		South Korea	11.1%		0.48%	<u> </u>
:		 Japan	DATA	NOT AVAILABLE	0.01	
		 ■ China	0.4		0.03	
		■ India	0.2		0.02	
	57	 ■ Taiwan	10.3	<b>*************************************</b>	4.62	_ !
		Hong Kong	15.4		10.48	
		Philippines	0.7		0.11	,
		■ Thailand_	1.5	Programma and the	0.17	
		■ Malaysia_	3.9		0.52	
	Sources: STAR TV. FCC, Salomon Brothers,	 Singagore	21.9		8.82	= ;

### STAR TV Pioneer Places His Next Bet on Internet

By Mark Landler New York Times Service

satellite-delivered cable-television service, STAR TV, and then sold a controlling stake to News Corp. for \$525 million in 1993. His pedigree is even more formidable: He is the second son of Hong Kong's most prominent tycoon, Li Ka-shing, and heir to a fortune estimated at nearly \$9 billion.

By Keith B. Richburg

Washington Post Service

JAKARTA - Before the current fi-

pancial crisis erupted here last year,

erasing more than 70 percent of the

value of the local currency, Indonesia

was gaining importance as a trade partner and buyer for American products.

From shampoo to fast-food chicken,

from construction cranes to California

grapes, Indonesia - with its 200 mil-

lion people and a small hut growing urban consumer class — was seen as

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tentions known, announcing plans for a and faster information, digital media company to provide In-

all the more so because Asia is limping aren't? Korea, Thailand, Indonesia." through its worst economic downtum since the end of World War II.

ner to provide financing and techno-Li, 31, says the region's financial tur- other parts of the region did not.

one of the most promising of the

'emerging market' economies.

But the country's financial collapse

has forced U.S. companies to reassess

that view and, in some cases, delay

have predicted both the suddenness and

extent of Indonesia's economic free fall

early recovery for it.

- and now, few are anticipating an

"It's not a pretty picture," said James Castle, a vice chairman of the U.S.

Last month, he made his encore in-moil only dramatizes the need for better

"What separated the countries that referring to the region's economic trou-hles of the past several months. "Which "If you look at our offerings, they In a part of the world where firsthand hles of the past several months. "Which He made his reputation in the early experience with the Internet is a rarity, countries are still standing? Singapore, will be divided half between work, 1990s, when he started Asia's first Mr. Li's is an audacious undertaking— Hong Kong, Taiwan, Which ones making money, and half fun," he said,

> The difference, he said, was that when the turmoil began last summer as a cur-rency run in Thailand, executives and Group, has signed Intel Corp. as a part-policymakers in Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan generally had access to reallogical expertise for the venture. Mr. time electronic news, while people in

While he plans to distribute immediate stock quotes and news in addition to Internet access, Mr. Li also plans to

making money, and half fun," he said, If the plan unfolds as Mr. Li envisions, about two years from now Pacific Century will begin beaming the service hy satellite to cahle operators throughout the region. They would

then deliver it over upgraded cahle

See LL, Page 15

### Fall in Imports Propels Japan's Surplus Higher

Weak Economy Aggravates a Trade Issue

bank said.

watched.

TOKYO — Japan's current-account surplus surged 49 percent in February. its first expansion in five months, as imports slowed because of weak sales at home, government figures released Monday showed.

The month-to-month current-account surplus — the broadest measure of goods and services flowing in and out of Japan — expanded to 1.56 trillion yen (\$11.86 hillion), the Finance Ministry said.

Imports plunged 15.8 percent, while exports fell 4.7 percent.

Compared with Fehruary 1997, the

surplus expanded 97.1 percent. The yearlong slump in domestic sales has forced such manufacturers as Toshiba Corp. and Hitachi Ltd. to cul output as they try to reduce bloated inventories. As a result, imports of raw materials fell and are considered un-

likely to start rising again soon.
U.S. officials accuse Japan of relying too heavily on exports for growth. But Japanese officials say the current-account surplus will not grow rapidly in the long term, because Japan's exports to the rest of Asia are slowing and because a fiscal stimulus package being prepared by the government will bolster

domestic spending and imports.

The Bank of Japan, in a pessimistic monthly report, said capital investment had begun to decline while growth in

exports, which had been "underpinning the economy," also was slowing. "Downward pressures on economic

for the May summit meeting of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations in Birmingham, England. Top finance officials and central

bankers from the G-7 nations - Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States - are to meet Wednesday in Washington. The Japanese economy is reported to be high on the agenda, but it was not clear whether Finance Minister Hikaru Matsunaga would be able to anend, with Parliament debating the fiscal stimulus package.
"In the short or even mid-term," said

Koichi Ono of Daiwa Research Institute, "the surplus is unlikely to shrink, although Japanese exports are moderately dampened by Asia's economic crisis. Japan may have entered another era of sizable trade surplus, which would irritate G-7 nations.

But Andrew Shipley of Schroders
Japan said U.S. officials would focus on urging Tokyo to deregulate its financial sector rather than on the trade surplus. (Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP)

#### HONG KONG - For four years, ternet access and other information ser- did O.K. from those that didn't was the offer video games and a karaoke feapeople here have been asking Richard vices via television sets and Li the question he knows he cannot computers throughout Asia. vices via television sets and personal availability of information," he said, ture that will allow viewers to warhle

escape: What will you do nexi?

But his company, Pacific Century

Indonesia's Sudden Slump Washes Ashore in the U.S. Economy bears his name. He said consumer-oriented American husinesses had taken advantage of "new buying power that the growth of the '90s had generated'

and that this buying power "has just

plans for expansion. No one seems to been savaged." John Murphy, managing director of Coca-Cola Indonesia, said: "The current crisis has forced all companies to relook at consumer behavior. The key huyers are moms and teens, and they are readjusting their spending habits ac-Chamber of Commerce in Jakarta and cordingly. They have seen a sharp de-head of a business advisory group that cline in their purchasing power."

One of the hardest hit is McDonald's line as fast as the available space could Corp., reported to he closing more than a dozen of its more than 100 outlets in Indonesia. McDonald's was badly hurt by import costs, which soared when the local currency, the rupiah, collapsed. For one thing, Indonesia does not grow its own potatoes, so McDonald's imports them to make french fries.

The local construction industry also has been hit hard. During Indonesia's boom years, new office buildings, shopping centers and luxury apartment complexes sprouted across the Jakarta sky-

be filled. Now, many stand unfinished or unoccupied, and construction work largely has ground to a halt.
That has badly affected U.S.-based

Caterpillar Inc., which supplies heavy equipment not just for construction work here but for forestry, mining and the oil and gas industry.

American agricultural exports to In-donesia also have suffered, as credit here has largely evaporated. In 1996, the

See RUPIAH, Page 15

### Thinking Ahead /Commentary

### The IMF: Still Fallible, but Improving

By Reginald Dale

ASHINGTON -- Popes in the Middle Ages had no need of armies, nor of in just the last week, the force their authority. They could make shortcomings, even though Tokyo is tremble simply by offering or withholding the prospect of salvation.

But like the Pope, Michel Camdessus of France, the IMF's managing Communist countries to market econdirector, is apparently supposed to be omies and more recently in encourinfallible -- or at least, a mistake by the Fund seems to generate more outrage among its critics than a similar error made hy an elected national govern-

Since last summer, as the IMF has grappled with the Asian crisis, its policies have provoked some of the toughest criticism since the agency was established at the end of World War II.

Many of the accusations have been unfair. Critics tend not to give IMF programs time to work, nor to make allowance for the ohvious fact that they

were hurriedly concocted in a crisis. Some of the reproaches, as the Fund has itself admitted, have been justi- ments to take unpopular measures.

Forward Rates

1.6707 1.6679 1.6632 Japanese yen 1.4220 1.4209 1.4200 Swiss from 1.8166 1.8134 1.8104

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam), Cera investment Bank (Brussets); Banca Commerciale Ralland (Mylan); Banque de France (Pans); Bank of Tokyo), Albomberg and Reuters. Canada (Torania); IMF (SDR), Cithey data from the Associated Press, Bloomberg and Reuters.

popular approval, to en- hluntly lectured Japan on its economic more democratic. Christendom's most powerful rulers not asking for IMF assistance; warned In today's global economy, that kind od, and concluded a new deal with of influence is wielded no longer by the Indonesia aimed at forcing radical od, and concluded a new deal with agreed time.

of influence is wielded no longer by the Pope in the Vatican but by the International Monetary Fund in Washington.

Governments in financial trouble will undergo the severest economic penance to win the Fund's benediction.

But like the Pope, Michel Camdes
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kets, banking rules and competition nists know that their previous system policy — further encroaching on nafailed; most Asians are much less

tional sovereignty. omies and try to influence govern- admit, he is not actually infallihle.

What the recriminations have gen- should help to improve economic eferally obscured, however, is the extent ficiency and reduce the risk of further to which the power and influence of the crises. The structural reforms the Fund Fund, and its self-confidence, have is seeking in Asia also should help to make governments and companies In just the last week, the Fund has more open and societies generally

Numerous governments, such as those of Russia and the Philippines, Argentina to cut back economic have actually asked the Fund to congrowth in a sensitive pre-election peri- tinne its surveillance beyond the

But the huge expansion in the role of the agency is taking place almost haphazardly and with little democratic

The Fund itself is well aware of these issues. One senior official reaging Asian nations to change their cently asked why the IMF's tough pro-entire economic systems. In doing so, the Fund has reached ceptable in former Communist coundeep into areas once thought to be none tries than in Asia. The answer, of of its husiness - such as labor mar- course, is that most former Commu-

Many of the proposals for improving the international financial system in the wake of the Asian crisis, due to be discussed at the agency's spring meeting in Washington this week, would how far its power should reach and give the Fund even greater power to how it can be made more accountable. elicit official data, monitor ailing econ- As Mr. Camdessus would be the first to

> Internet address: thinkahead@washpost.com

> > @ InqA

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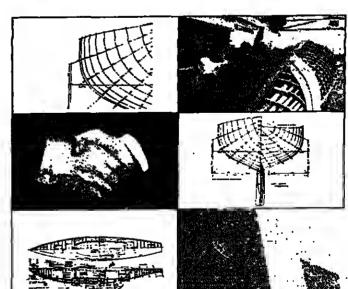
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#### Private Banking International

# HOW TO BUILD



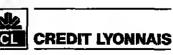


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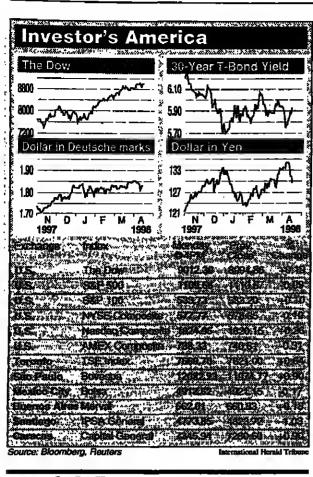
### **CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES**

April 9-13 Libid-Libor Rates

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132.12 | 131.58 <u>Germany</u>



#### Very briefly:

 United Technologies Corp.'s Otis Elevator Co. subsidiary plans to close more than two-thirds of its engineering centers and cut 2,000 jobs as part of a restructuring to bolster efficiency and profit. Otis said it already had eliminated about 1,000 jobs and said most of the remaining cuts, equal to about 2 percent of its work force of 67,000, were expected to occur overseas.

• Excel Communication Inc.'s founder, chairman and chief executive. Kenny Troutt, now will become president of the long-distance company as well, after John McLaine, the president and chief operating officer, resigned.

• International Business Machines Cnrp. is negotiating to hire Douglas Maine, chief financial officer at MCI Communications Corp., as its finance chief, ending a 10-month search.

· Astra USA Inc.'s former chief executive, Lars Bildman, was sentenced to 21 months in prison for filing false federal tax returns. He was also ordered to pay a fine of \$30,000 and serve a three-year period of supervised release after prison. •Intergraph Corp. won a preliminary injunction against Intel Corp. as part of its federal lawsuit accusing the chip-

AP, Bloomberg, Reuters

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INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

maker of anticompetitive behavior, patent infringement and antitrust violations.

#### **Weekend Box Office**

April 13, 1998

Grains

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LOS ANGELES -- "City of Angels" dominated the U.S. box office over the weekend, with a gross of \$16.1 million. Following are the Top 10 moneymakers, based on estimates for Friday through Sunday.

I. Lify Of Angels	(Womer Bros.)	#16.1 Million
2. Lost in Space	(New Line Cinema)	\$13.6 million
3. Trignic	(Fwemleth Century-Food	S8.7 million
4. Species II	(MGM)	\$7.4 million
5. The Players Oub	(NewLine Cinema)	\$5.6 million
6. Mercury Rising	(Universal)	\$5.3 million)
7. Neil Simon's The Odd Couple R	(Paramount)	\$5 million
B. My Giant	(Castle Rock)	\$3.1 million
9. Greese	(Paramount)	\$2.65 pullion
10. Primary Colors	(Universal)	\$2.6 million

### Financial Shares Shine in a Mixed Market

NEW YORK - U.S. stocks were mixed Monday as J.P. Morgan & Co. led a rebound in the Dow Jones industrial average and two big bank

mergers aroused speculation that more combinations were on the the Fed will raise benchmark lendway. Gains were offset by concern that shares would fall if interest rates headed higher. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 17.44 points to close at

9,012.30, recovering from a 69-point drop. J.P. Morgan helped fuel the rebound in the wake of merger an-nouncements between NationsBank Corp. and BankAmerica Corp., and between First Chicago NBD Corp. and Banc One Corp. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index fell 0.98 to 1,109.69, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 4.71 to 1,824.95 after losing almost 10 points.

But much of the market remained under pressure. Lucent Technologies, up 68 percent year to date, led the decline, falling 21/s to 671/s.

"At these levels, the stock market has no margin for error," said A. Gary Shilling, president of Shilling & Co. "With any threat of higher interest rates, investors get nervous in a hurry."

Bonds suffered their worst loss in six weeks after the Federal Reserve said it had sold Treasury bills on behalf of an undisclosed customer. Traders speculated that Japan, one of the largest holders of Treasury debt, was selling some of its hold-

The 30-year benchmark U.S. Treasury bond was quoted 20/32 of a point lower at 102 24/32, driving the yield up to 5.92 percent from 5.88 percent.

'substantial financial commitment."

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10 YR TREASURY (CBOT) \$100,000 prin- pis & 32nds of 198 pcf Jun 98 112-90 112-97 112-15 - 15 461,239 5ep 98 113-01 112-16 112-16 - 17 16.117 Dcc 98 113-01 112-16 112-16 - 17 4.917 Est. sales 88,888 Thurs soles 119,681 Thurs open int 492.273 up 8,958

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FOR INVESTMENT INFORMATION

Read THE MONEY REPORT every Saturday in the IHT.

> Herald RTEROLETIONAL Eribune THE WORLD'S DALLY NEWSPAPER

TWA to Buy 24 Boeing Planes

ST. LOUIS, Missouri - Trans World Airlines Inc. signed

a letter of intent to order 24 new MD-83 planes from Boeing

Co. for delivery in 1999, the airline said Monday in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The planes are valued at about \$1 billion, based on list price.

TWA plans to acquire the aircraft through a long-term leasing arrangement, the filing said. While the airline said it was not

possible to "accurately estimate" the amount of the rental

payments, it added that the payments would represent a

It would be TWA's first significant order since it ordered 15

The planes would replace Boeing 727s, which the airline is retiring. TWA is replacing old aircraft with new ones and reducing the number of plane types in an attempt to lower maintenance costs. TWA has 185 planes in its fleet, and has replaced 35 in the last two years. The average age of the planes has fallen to 17 years from 19 years since 1996, TWA said.

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MD-83s and 70 757s in 1996, a year after it emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection for a second time.

Meyer, called the pace of U.S. Chicago and Banc One also rose. growth "unsustainable" in a speech Other financial issues gained on Thursday, leading to concern that

#### U.S. STOCKS

ing rates to slow the economy.

Higher interest rates tend to depress stock prices, because they raise the cost corporate borrowing - hurting profits - and make alternative in vestments to stocks more attractive.

speculation that they might be next to merge, including Chase Manhattan, which rose 5 to 146%, and J.P. Morgan, which climbed 7 1/16 to

There's only one group of stocks getting investors charged up, and that's financial shares," said Ned Riley, chief investment officer

of BankBoston Corp.

Better-than-forecast results from some of the biggest securities firms NationsBank led gainers in the also helped financial shares. Merrill S&P 500 after it and BankAmerica Lynch gained 41/4 to 99 3/16 after it Corp. agreed to the biggest bank said first-quarter earnings rose 11 merger ever. BankAmerica, First percent to a record as asset man-

agement fees surged. PaineWebber Gronp rose after the fourth-biggest U.S. securities firm, based on the number of brokers, said first-quarter net in-

come rose 20 percent to a record. And Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Inc. said its profit surged 55 percent, sending the stock up.

Many shares fell on concern that first-quarter earnings would fall short of analysts' expectations.

"Earnings estimates have been coming down while the market is up sharply," said Geoffrey Brod, a money manager with Aeltus Investment Management in Hartford,

### Ovitz Makes A Comeback

Bloomberg News

TORONTO - Michael Ovitz, a former Hollywood power broker, will take control of Livent Inc., a Toronto theater-production company that has failed to translate its popular shows into the profits expected by investors.

Mr. Ovitz, forced out as Walt Disney Co.'s president in 1997, will invest \$20 million in Livent, whose productions in clude Ragtime and Showboat Investors including Thomas

Lee, a Boston money manager, have agreed to let Mr. Ovitz vote? shares amounting to as much as 44.5 percent of Livent's stock. The move ends Mr. Ovitz's

exile from the entertainment business, though it is a far cry from the days when be handledmany of the top stars in musica and film, and was heir apparent to Disney's chairman, Michael

Livent also named a former. securities executive, Roy Furman, as chairman and chief executive, replacing Garth Dra-

binsky.
"Garth never held back on. spending, and it looks like it caught up with him," said Den-

Josephthal & Co. in New York. On Monday, Livent reported a fourth-quarter loss of 53.8 million Canadian dollars (\$37.7) million), compared with yearago profit of 2.7 million dollars. because of a 39.7 million-dollar pretax charge related to production costs and debt.

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### U.S. Economic Outlook Bolsters Dollar

NEW YORK — The dollar rose against the yen Monday amid expectations the U.S. economy will outperform Japan's and as speculation faded that the Bank of Japan \$1.6707. would sell dollars again after two days of sales last week.

"Dollar strength is a natural path," said Rick Zauderer of Friedberg Commodity Management Inc. in Toronto. "Japan is in trouble, and the measures it's taken so far aren't strong enough" to revive the economy. He said the dollar could rise to

135 yen by the end of June.
The dollar rose to 129.63 yen in 4 P.M. trading from 128.67 yen Friday. The U.S. currency was little changed at 1.8238 Deutsche marks, compared with 1.8235 DM, as cur-Nor did it help that a Federal rency trading in much of Europe Reserve Board governor, Laurence was closed for the Easter holidays. 225 stock index also prompted yen merzbank. The dollar will "rebound once the market is in full force."

The dollar was slightly lower at 1.5105 Swiss francs, compared with 1.5162 francs, and 6.1120 French francs, from 6.1123 francs.

investors sell Japanese stocks, they often convert the yen proceeds into other currencies.

Many traders said they viewed The pound fell to \$1.6681 from

The Bank of Japan sold about \$12

#### FOREIGN EXCHANGE

billion last week, many traders estimated, though some in Tokyo said it may have been as much as \$22 billion. That drove the dollar down more than 6 yen Friday to a onemonth low of 127.38 yen.

With no sign of dollar sales Monday, traders shifted their focus back to expectations that Japan's economy may slip into recession.

A 1 percent decline in the Nikkei

the dollar's drop late last week as temporary because the Japanese government had not aggressively implemented measures to spark economic recovery.
Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashi-

moto's announcement Thursday that at least 4 trilliou yen would be cut from Japanese income taxes in a plan to pump 10 trillion yen into the economy failed to bolster the yen.

The dollar could get a lift Tuesday after many European markets reopened, traders said. The Bank of Japan's dollar sales "are short-term measures to knock down the dollar," said Debra Larsen, a trader at Com-

#### **AMEX**

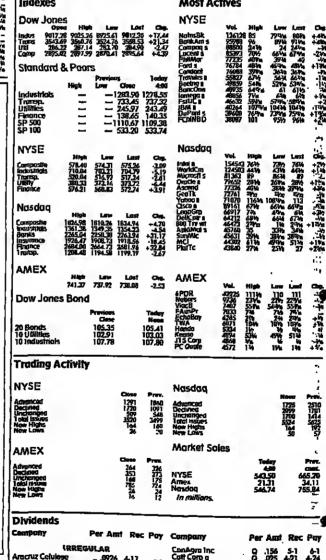
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Compiled by Our Staff From Disputches

MOSCOW - The government and central bank signed a statement Monday on economic policy for 1998 that was necessary for Russia to secure the next installment of an International Monetary Fund loan, the central bank said.

But the lending agency lashed out at Russia's inability to keep tax policies on track, criticizing its complex system and what it called weak administrative rules and an inadequate legal framework.

The economic policy encapsulated in the Russian statement is designed to continne market reforms, increase company transparency, stimulate investment and fuel growth. The government and central bank aim to increase tax collection and reduce government spending to cut the budget deficit, the statement said.
'It's an important signal to in-

vestors," said Sergei Kiriyenko, the prime minister-designate.

The next installment of Russia's \$9.3 billion IMF loan could be released after final approval of the policy and if economic indicators meet Fund targets. The agency last disbursed part of the loan late last year, handing over \$667 million.

The IMF board of directors will eval-

uate the economic policy in May in deciding how much additional money Russia will receive when the three-year loan is extended for another year, to 2000, the central bank said.

IMF officials plan to review Russia's economic indicators for the first quarter in Moscow at the end of the month, the Interfax news agency reported. The Fund's managing director, Michel Camdessus, said recently that the international agency would extend by one year and increase the scale of the loan.

"Russia exemplifies many of the fiscal problems that still confront countries less advanced in transition," the IMF's semiannual World Economic Outlook said Monday in a special section on Russia, adding, "Progress in tax reform in Russia has been inadequate."

The outlook predicted that the Russian economy would grow by 1 percent in 1998, up from 0.4 percent in 1997, while inflation slowed to 8 percent from

15 percent in 1997. The central bank chief, Sergei Duhinin, said Moscow would not take part in talks among finance ministries and central bankers of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations this week in Washington. (Reuters, Bloomberg)



Hugh McColl, the chief executive of NationsBank, is to become chair-

### man of BankAmerica after his company merges with its former rival.

Continued from Page 1

cent of gross domestic product, more cuts in deficits were needed. The problem, Fund officials said, was that the euro would be introduced in several countries whose deficits were too close to 3 percent to allow for much spending

flexibility.

The IMF urged Enropean governments to take advantage of the current recovery "to move decisively" to reduce deficits further.

The IMF meanwhile, is predicting that as economic recovery continues in 1998, German interest rates will probably rise. along with rates elsewhere in Europe.
"For the time being," Mr. Mussa

said, "it is appropriate to keep short-term interest rates where they are." But he said higher rates would be appropriate if the recovery strengthened.

The IMF report also forecast that the three economies most affected by the Asian crisis would diminish this year: Indonesia's would contract by 5 percent, Thailand's hy 3.1 percent and South Korea's hy 0.8 percent, For Japan, the IMF is forecasting zero

growth this year, a sharp revision of its prediction four months ago of 1.1 percent growth. Mr. Mnssa warned that even zero growth "may not materialize" this year.

Japan is forecast to achieve a modest 1.3 percent rate of growth in 1999.

FORECAST: IMF Turns Grim on Growth China, which has been relatively imnune to contagion from the crisis, is nonethcless forecast to see its growth

slow to about 7 percent this year, com-

pared with 8.8 percent in 1997. Mr. Mussa said he realized that the 1998 forecast was lower than China's official target of 8 percent growth.

The IMF said that spillovers from the Asian crisis had been most apparent in Russia, Ukraine and Estonia. Russia's economy will grow just I percent in 1998, the IMF said, a forecast

that the agency has revised down by more than 4 percentage points since October. Countries in transition from communism will grow by an average 2.9 percent

this year, the Fund said, down from its forecast six months ago of 4.2 percent. The Fund's prediction for African growth was lowered to 4.6 percent from percent, and that for the Middle East to

#### 3.3 percent from 4.2 percent. ■ German Appeals for Openness

Finance Minister Theo Waigel of Germany called Monday for countries to be more open about their finances, to avoid a repeat of Asia's economic troubles, Bloomberg News reported from Bonn.

"The events in Asia have made it increasingly clear that international invesiors and the International Monetary Fund need access to comprehensive and reliable information so they can assess

### BANKS: Mergers to Create U.S. Giants

Continued from Page 1

Citigroup, as the merged Citicorp and Travelers is to be known, theoretically would have to divest itself of some nonbanking assets within five years, although executives said they were boping the law would be changed by then.
BankAmerica and NationsBank have

already moved into the securities husiness. BankAmerica owns Robertston Stephens, a securities firm that is strong in technology and mutual funds, while NationsBank last year purchased Mont-

gomery Securities, a San Francisco-based brokerage house.

"The wave," Mr. Root said, "is to be able to offer a wide range of financial products and services using the branch network," Travelers and Citicorp gave that rationale for their merger.

Despite the talk of nationwide bank-

ing, the combined institution will merge BankAmerica's Western presence with the Southern and Southeastern U.S. operations of NationsBank. The new BankAmerica will not have much of a presence in the Midwest, where Banc One and First Chicago are strong, and neither of the merged lenders will have a substantial retail presence in the North-

Of the four banks involved in the Monday merger activity, only BankAmerica has significant overseas interests. About 10 percent of its earnings are attributable to Pacific operations, executives said Monday, hroadly defining the region as ranging from Chicago, to Chile to Japan.

NationsBank and BankAmerica have been moving toward creating national banks, Mr. McColl noted. "I have made no secret of my desire to create a nationwide franchise," he said, "and Dave's company was founded by the man who had the idea before any of us were bom: A.P. Giannini.

"In 1930, five years before I was born, Mr. Giannini was asked by members of Congress what he thought about nationwide banking. He said, and I quote, 'It is coming, gentlemen, and there is nothing you can do to stop it.

They did manage to slow it down, but it seems an idea whose time has come. Certainly, investors liked the announcements Monday, and shares of all four banks rose in late trading. NationsBank, which is to exchange 1.1316 of its shares for each BankAmerica share, was up \$3.75 at \$80.1875, while BankAmerica gained \$3,625 to \$90.125. The hid does not include a premium over the market price of

#### Markets Closed

BankAmerica on Thursday, executives noted, describing the transaction as a merger of equals even though it is struc-

tured as a takeover. In the other deal, Banc One, which will swap 1.62 shares for each First Chicago share, advanced 12.5 cents to \$61.875; First Chicago was up \$3.1875 to \$97,125.

Although Wall Street overall was mixed, other bank and brokerage shares rose. The Standard & Poor's Bank Composite, an index that measures the bank stocks in the hroad S&P 500-stock average, was up 15.37 points, or 2 percent, late in the day at 759.55.

Merger speculation swirled around such financial-services issues as Merrill Lynch & Co., PaineWebber Group Inc., J.P. Morgan & Co. Merrill and PaineWebber announced higher-than-expected earnings Monday. NationsBank also had an earnings

announcement out Monday, and its news was good as well. It said operating earnings rose 33 percent, to \$1.14 billion, in the first quarter, reflecting gains in revenue, expense controls and prior mergers. In its drive to expand into a countrywide bank, NationsBank recently acquired Barnett Banks Inc., a Florida-based lender, and Boarmen's Bancshares of St. Louis.

The company's latest deal will result in the elimination of 5,000 to 8,000 positions at the combined bank, although executives said many of those jobs would be lost through attrition.

Besides the attractions of universal banking and increased size, U.S. financial companies have been takeover targets because they are inexpensive relative to many other kinds of American stocks. One reason is investor caution after the lending debacles of the 1970s and 1980s, which led to significant writeoffs of foreign loans and to the failure of many savings-and-loan associations.

#### ■ Bank America Sells Division

GreenPoint Financial Corp. agreed to buy BankAmerica's mohile-home finance unit for about \$703 million, making the New York-based thrift the second-largest mobile-home lender in the United States, behind Green Tree Financial Corp., Bloomberg News reported from New York.

Buying BankAmerica Housing Services gives GreenPoint a lending outlet for the deposits it gathers from its New York-area branches, Bank America's San Diego-based unit has more than 1,400 employees and 45 offices in 31 states. It provides financing through about 4,300 mobile-home dealers and originated about \$3 hillion in loans last year.

Green Tree Financial, the leading mohile-home lender, agreed last week Most European markets and many sto-be acquired by Conseco Inc., an in-Asian markets were closed Monday for pstrance holding company based in Car-



chief executive of Banc One Corp.

#### Very briefly:

 Boeing Co. said its next-generation 737-800 model had been approved by the Joint Aviation Authorities of Europe, which represents 27 countries. Last week, Boeing said it would take a \$350 million charge against earnings because of cost overruns on the 737 program and attributed some of the costs to changes demanded by European regulators.

· German union leaders and employers said they favored resurrecting the "Alliance for Jobs," an joint effort by unions, employers and the government to reduce unemployment. The 1996 initiative fell apart during its first year amid union opposition to a series of welfarereform proposals by the government.

• Spain's unemployment rate as measured by the Labor Ministry, which counts only those officially registered as jobless, fell to 12.58 percent in March from 12.76 percent in Fehruary. The National Statistics Institute, which uses a survey to measure the entire work force, says the johless rate was 20.32 percent at the end of last year.

 British companies are losing confidence in their ability to increase exports, a survey hy Dun & Bradstreet concluded. Although only 47.5 percent of the managing directors who were polled expected exports to rise in the next few months, compared with 54.5 percent in the arraying guarant the conduction. the previous quarter, the study concluded that the country was heading toward a "soft landing."

• The International Monetary Fund suspended disbursement of a standhy loan of \$542 million to Ukraine because the country exceeded its target deficit for the first quarier.

• Russia's industrial output rose 1.3 percent in the first quarter, the govemment said.

### AIRBUS: High-Flying European Concern Prepares to Take On Boeing in an Industrial Battle Likely to Reverberate Around the World 37.9 percent, British Aerospace PLC with 20 has skillfully managed to keep the proposed deal executives, because it would have forged a Ger-sisted on keeping his own long-announced re-

#### Continued from Page 1

the board now seems unavoidable for Airbus to live up to its ambition of becoming a long-term commercial success.

. Airbus says it relishes the prospect of competition. "Our airliners are the newest, cheapest, fast-

'ést, quietest'' available because their technology dates basically from the 1980s, a company executive said - claiming that most Boeings still include key features dating back to the 1960s. Boeing executives retort that their planes, especially the recent 777, still lead in innovation and insist that Airbns, faced with hotter competition, will resort again to some form of government belp.

Trying to clear the decks for long-term commercial viability, Airbus is finally moving to jettison the statist, featherbedded structures it inherited from its origins as a governmentbacked start-up company challenging a U.S. quasi-monopoly.

The blueprint for its future was confirmed late last month in an aerospace industry report gen-erated by the governments of Britain, France and Germany, the three European countries with big aerospace industries.

- Already, sources said over the weekeod, negotiations are uoder way about the value of assets to be pooled in the new Airbus under a holding company owned hy present partners.

The report, formally given to the four Airbns partner governments, calls for each owner to hand over its Airbus-related industrial assets, plus cash where necessary, to ensure that the new shareholding reflects the current balance of power: Aerospatiale of France with 37.9 percent, Daimler-Benz Aerospace AG of Germany with

Spain with 4.2 percent.

The plan sounds simple enough: A loose partnership is restructured as a normal multinational. Each owner gets shares and gets out of operations, so that Airbus is handled by its owo professional, profit-minded management - due

to take over at the end of this year. The move seemed obvious in Britain and Germany, whose aerospace industries have privatized and streamlined to cope with new competitive pressures on international businesses. But the restructuring of Airbus has been held up by France.

For nearly two years, the French government has been reluctant to impose changes oo Aerospatiale, the state-owoed aircraft and missile-builder that handles the French share of

The changes would partly dismanile France's leading aerospace company and partly privatize it. On a board where BAe and Daimler held 59.9 percent. Aerospatiale, even in alliance with Spain's state-owned company, would be a minority shareholder in an essentially private company.

The deadlock was finally broken last December when Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, overruling strong lobhies in his own leftist coalition government and in the aerospace industry, ordered Aerospatiale's chief executive, Yves Michot, to reorganize the company into a series of subsidiaries, including one containing all of its Airbus-related assets. That subsidiary will be swapped for shares in the planned new holding

Politics could still break open the deal until it is publicly signed, analysts said, and Mr. Jospin

out of the public eye. French opinion is always wary of seeing nationalized companies pass into the hands of stockholders and Aerospatiale could

be particularly disturbing for many people. More than just a national defense company, Aerospatiale is identified with modern France's industrial pride: Among other things, it created Coocorde, the ouclear missiles in France's force de frappe, the Ariane space rocket, Europe's leadership in commercial space launchers, the

deadly Exocet missile - and Airbus itself. Also opposed to loosening French control over a significant chunk of Aerospatiale are the trade unions. They want to retain the job protection enjoyed by Aerospatiale's workers, who

bave quasi-civil servant status. As a result, Mr. Jospin has moved guardedly, initially seeking delays for many mooths after he came to office last June. But France ran out of room for maneuver late last autumn as Germany and Britain pressed for action and hinted that further French inaction could isolate Paris and perhaps force its European partners to seek a deal with Lockheed Martin.

That seemed to do the trick, but the depth of resistance could still be measured by further lastditch efforts of Mr. Michot.

When he finally agreed to the holding company, he said that Aerospatiale's assets should not be touched. In other words, Aerospatiale's research labs and assembly lines would remain independent, the way they are now and unlike the three other partners who merge - presumably so that Aerospatiale's design labs and assembly lines could do Airbus work on contract but pursue other national programs.

That option was finally veloed by Mr. Jospin, according to government officials and industry man-British bloc in Airbus and marginalized the French aerospacquidustry, splitting Europe and opening the way to U.S. inroads.

Overcoming European rivalries was one of the reasons for restructuring Airbus's consortium. which was adopted a quarter-century ago when a prime concern in each founder nation was proecting its own oational aerospace industries.

Even today, while roughly 50,000 people are engaged full time in building and selling Airbuses, only 2,400 are employed by Airbus — a handful compared with the mass of "Airbus workers" who are Germans, French, Britons and Spaniards owing their paychecks and corporate loyalties not directly to Airbus hut to their own companies: 20,000 for Daimler-Benz Aerospace, 12,500 for Aerospatiale, 7,000 for British Aerospace and 3,000 for Construcciones

Each partner company designs and builds a part of the plane — BAe makes wings, Aerospatiale makes cockpits - and Airbus takes delivery, assembles the components and paints the customer airline's livery on each finished airliner.

For each owner company, the three others are partners in this venture but potential competitors elsewhere, so it makes sense to disclose through Airbus as little information as possible.

"We doo't even necessarily know it when one of our owner companies makes a productivity breakthrough oo its Airbus work - and we certainly doo'l get those savings passed through to us," an Airbus executive recently said.

This haphazard system, with its hidden costs in the form of blinkered management, is set to give way at a juncture when Airbus gets a new pilor. Noel Forgeard, 51, replaces Airbus's visionary CEO, Jean Pierson, who last month intirement date. Mr. Forgeard arrives with a strong reputation from Matra, the privately owned French defense company, where he formed alliances with British Aerospace, Daimler-Benz Aerospace and other British and German part-

Even with its new system and with Mr. Forgeard in place, can Airbus thrive along strictly commercial lines?

An early test for Mr. Forgeard will be layoffs. Ohviously, there are redundancies if we merge four national design studios, four separate sales forces and so forth, 'a company executive said, adding that consolidations could save 10 percent

A tougher challenge will come if Mr. Forgeard seeks to relocate contracts to save money and boost productivity, confronting his countrymen with the need for jobs to cross borders to keep Airbus on course.

With this European context in mind, there is little heartburn at Boeing, where executives profess skepticism about a multinational airplane's ability to fly free of political strings.

"The day Airbus closes a plant in one country and moves the work to another to cut costs, that's when we'll start thinking maybe the Europeans are getting seriously commercial," a Boeing

Mr. Lundquist, the McKinsey analyst, however, suggested that Airbus developments were being closely monitored in the United States. "For the first time, the Europeans seem to be stepping up to the plate" about restructuring their aerospace sector, he said.

TOMORROW: Waterlee chead for the French

#### High Law Close Pres. The Trib Index WORLD STOCK MARKETS Prices as of 3 00 P.M. New York time Wing Tol Hogs 154 1.47 1.47 1.48 year to date % change 759 2860 3670 10700 1960 780 1460 2570 4840 774 1560 774 1560 829 2540 3050 + 15.14 **—** 0.11 Monday, April 13 Prices in local currencies. World Index Elegropus Elegropus Ferr Alburt Pid Gerdau Pid Izantanco Pid Light Servicios Petrobras Pid SABESP Telebrus Pid Teles Pid CVRD Pid CVRD Pid Regional Indexes Korachu Marusi Asia/Pacific +0.68Manila 177 27.55 27.70 27.70 28.50 28 236.13 -0.06-0.03+ 22.32 Europe 243.33 + 0.14 + 0.06 + 12.66 N. America 10 17,75 106 74 120 322,50 5,80 1035 40,50 65 7 Ayedo Lend Bir, Philip Isl Memila Elec A Memila Elec A Memila Elec B Metro Bank Pelmo Phil Long Dist Son Miguel B SAN Prime Holg 155.29 S. America +0.13+0.08+ 1.72 Formoso Plastic Hun Nam Bit Ind Comm Ba, Ind Comm Ba, Ind To Plastics Shin Kong Life Talwan Seral Talwan Utal Micro Elec Utal World Chin Capital goods +0.14+ 0.06 + 16.47 610 627 50 395 401 39150 395 16081617.25 38.50 445.50 92.90 94.65 92.90 94.65 251.70 257.20 270 270.90 194.75 301 294.75 301 294.29 288 624.50 605.50 406 392 398.75 391 1622 1575 443.25 442.50 95.50 99 787.57 756 295.50 245 273 266.40 189 299.50 273.50 299.50 273.50 291.70 282 232.67 **— 0.77** -0.33+ 10.94 Consumer goods 210.92 + 8.19 Energy **— 0.17** + 21.26 @x 100: b: x 1,000 Finance + 0.11 + 0.06 + 13.62 + 0.99 + 19.90 Toronto Mexico **—** 0.37 -0.18+ 16.56 Service Tokyo **Utaties** 186.69 -0.25Abbilibi Cons. Alberte Ensery Alberte Ensery Alberte Ensery Anders Aberte Anders Aberte Anderson Expl Bis Minnived Bis Minnived Bis Minnived Bis Minnived Bis Minnived Bost Telecomen Bostbordier B Cometo Citi Cord Cord Pet Com Natl Roil Con Roil Factor Con Control Franco Natl Roil Franco Newada Gotf Cylo Ras Imperial Col Inco Con Newada Col Inco Con Newada Col Inco Con Newada Col Inco Con Newada Col Inco Con New Col Inco Con 22.15 3.0.25 81.10 91.10 54.35 54.35 54.35 54.35 54.40 51.30 +11.882.45.46.54.42.46.62.24.18.54.46.52.4 25.15.46.45.55.34.46.46.75.25.26.24.46.35.34.46.35.34.46.46.75.35.34.46.35. The International Herald Tribune World Stock Index © tracks the U.S. dollar value of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countines. For more intermetion a free booklet is available by writing to The Trib Index, 151 Avanue Churles de Gaulle, 32521 Neutly Cedex, France Compiled by Bloomberg Net gambo A Carso A1 Carso G1 Tel A1 Carso G1 Tel A1 Carnex CPO Cifro C Fennico B Inburso B KimClark Mex A Televiso CPO TelMex L Jakarta 2425 11400 257\$ 2900 3875 2425 17325 6850 4600 7250 3850 2800 2425 11275 2550 2800 3850 2400 17200 6700 6500 7206 3850 2800 Singapore Suncor Tolismon Eny Teck B Telegische Teles Thorson TorDom Bonk Transcoda Pipe Trimark Frid Intec Hahn TVX. Gold Westcoast Eny Workin 52.45 41.20 20% 64.35 42.90 43% 68 23.80 32.05 51% 34.30 5.85 34.65 51.55 40.75 63.35 42.30 42.34 66.30 23.45 53.85 54.10 143 427.556.71943995444471024423105684998584444711124484531056849985864453105684998586445464645 Montreal Agre browning BCE Motor Con Gothern Phorms Con Util A CT Fird Svc Gri-West Lifeco Impasco Interators Grp Lobiom Cos Natil Bit Conpoles Power Fird Royal Bit Colo Kuala Lumpur 9.25 11.50 4.26 8.45 2.80 12.30 9.25 7.40 2.37 11.60 3.85 13.86 13 FOR INVESTMENT INFORMATION Read THE MONEY REPORT every Saturday in the IHT.

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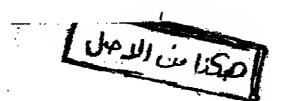
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### Kia Motors Keturns To Profit

Korean Automaker Criticizes Sale Talk

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL - The struggling auto maker Kia Motors Corp. announced a first-quarter net profit Monday of 45 billion won (\$32.4 million) and denounced efforts to sell the company.
"The profit will strengthen our footing to repay debts," said Park Je Hyuk, president of the company. He forecast a net profit for 1998 of 150

billion won. Any full-year profit would be the first for Kia Motors since 1993. The company bad a loss of 25 billion won in the year-earlier first quarter and a loss of 262 billion won for all

of last year.

Mr. Park argued against selling Korea's three other major automakers are vying to take over the company, which filed for receivership last year when its purent group collapsed under debts of more than 10 trillion won.

Mr. Park proposed that a special body be formed by the government and creditors to smdy Kia's viability. and he complained that reports of an impending sale were damaging its activities at home and abroad.

"Orders from our overseas dealers are declining sharply," Mr. Park also undermining Kia's efforts to

attract foreign capital. The company's shares tumbled 10 percent to close at 5,400 won.

Executives met last week to discass options including a possible sale of Kia Motors through an open tender after reducing its capital to flow the issuance of new shares. (AFP, Reuters, Bloomberg)

#### ■ Hyundai Looks at POSCO

Hyundai Group, South Korea's largest conglomerate, said it would he "interested" in bnying a stake in Pohang Iron & Steel Co. if the government decided to sell part of its stake, Bloomberg News reported.
Hyundai is already bidding to acouire Kia Motors as part of a strategy to beef up its core busi-

nesses. An investment to POSCO, as the Sonth Korean steel producer is known, could be an alternative to Hyundai's plan to build its own steel mill to snpply its auto, shipbnilding and electronics subsidiaries.



BACK TO BUSINESS - South Korea's trade, industry and energy minister, Park Tae Young. left, greeting Lin Ke Ming, president of Core Pacific Securities Co., on Monday in Seoul Mr. Lin is part of a Taiwan investment delegation, the first since South Korea recognized China in 1992.

### India Eases Trade Policy to Aid Economy

NEW DELHI - India said Monday it planned to lift exports by 20 percent in the year through March

by reducing trade restrictions.
The country's four-week-old government, led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, removed restrictions on 340 imported products said, adding that the reports were in line with a pledge by the previous Indian government to the World Trade Organization last year that India would phase out all such "quantitative restrictions" by 2003.

The Ministry of Commerce also said it would reduce the amount of paperwork and approvals needed to basis to 10 million rupees (\$253,000) export goods and would allow small from 200 million rupees.

KATMANDU, Nepal — Enron Corp. has withdrawn its application

investment, a senior government of-

"They have withdrawn their ap-plication for a survey license," the

pany had said it would continue to

Enron Renewable Energy Corp.

exporters to import equipment free of duties. The new measures indicate the

goals of promoting Indian industry of the food-processing industry. with demands from the World Trade Organization that the country further open up its economy to trade. India's export growth slowed last

year to 4 percent, compared with an average of 20 percent in the previous three years. The ministry also lowered the minimum value of exports required for a ers, said in New Delhi.

company to qualify to import machinery and equipment on a duty-free exporters an additional 5 percent

The new rule applies to exports of agricultural produce, garments, electronics, sports goods, toys, government's effort to halance its leather, gems, jewelry and products

> The move "will enable small companies to access new technology that will improve productivity and efficiency, which ultimately will boost the economy," Deepankar Barkakati, director of the Federation

The government also will give reimbursement for taxes paid on raw materials. (Bloomberg, AFP)

### of Indian Export Organizations, the largest association of Indian export-

Enron Drops Effort to Build Dam in Nepal proposed in 1996 building a dam on the application could be a blow to the Karnali River in western Nepal the Himalayan kingdom, which has

for a bydropower project in Nepal megawatts of bydropower for ex-that was to involve up to \$6 billion to port to India and China. In 1995, the World Bank dropped Enron asked the government for a plans to lend \$175 million for the \$1 survey license for the plant, which billion Arun III hydroelectric projwas to be among the world's ect in eastern Nepal, saying the biggest. It also planned to build country needed to focus on smaller

transmission lines across the Him-alayas to supply power to China. Nepal last year allowed Snowy Mountain Engineering Corp. of Anstralia to build a \$1 billion dam on the Analysts said the withdrawal of West Seti River.

# Zhu Changes Top Aides at 3 Key Banks

SHANGHAI — China bas shaken up the top management of its three 'policy' banks in a move apparently tied to plans to increase lending to infrastructure projects, bankers said Monday

The heads of the State Development Bank, Import & Export Bank of China and China Agricultural Development Bank have all been replaced in a move guided by Prime Minister Zhu Rongji.

Executives of the three banks confirmed the personnel changes but declined to comment further.

The so-called policy hanks were designed to channel funds to projects seen as priority areas by the state. But hankers said some policymakers were looking for a more active role for the banks, particularly as important infrastructure projects took on a new importance in spurring economic growth.

Beijing has pledged to invest as much as \$1 trillion over the next three years in infrastructure and other sectors to spur domestic demand during the Asian financial crisis.

which threatens Chinese exports. Industrial & Commercial Bank of China plans to lend 40 billion yuan (\$4.8 billion) for investment in infrastructure and technology upgrades this year, the Xinhua

agency reported Monday.
Official media have highlighted the need to accelerate spending for major projects without leading to a waste of resources.

Funding bad already been speeded to certain projects, particularly through the State Development Bank, they said.

Among the management changes confirmed by bankers was the nam-ing of Cben Yuan as bead of the State Development Bank, Mr. Chen. the former deputy governor of the People's Bank of China, succeeds Yao Zhenvan. Zhou Keren, formerly head of the

disciplinary department of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, has succeeded Tong Zhiguang as bead of the Import & Export Bank. to produce a maximum of 10,800 been wooing foreign investment to

Xie Xuren, former deputy finance minister, bas succeeded Zhn Yuanliang as bead of the Agricultural Development Bank.

Bankers in Beijing and Sbanghai said Zhu Rongji, who took office last month, had been assembling his management team to help carry out ambinous economic-reform plans.

#### Investor's Asia Hong Kong Singapore Nikkei 225 Hang Seng Straits Times Exchande Hong Kong Hang Seng 11,342.02 1,586.91 1.594.05 All Ordinanes 2,805.80 Closed: Nikkei 225 16,317.58 16,536.66 Kuala Lumpur Composite 675.93 -1.33 Bangkok ··· 446.13 Closed Secul Composite Index 494.89 490.63 +0.8 Taipei Stock Market Index 8,863.11 9,090.31 Manita PSE 2,210.46 2,193.47 Jakarta Composite Index 524,06 527.59 -0.67 Wellington NZSE-40 2,305,52 Bombay Sensitive Index 4,085.93 4,163.57 -2.33

#### Very briefly:

 Ekran Bhd. of Malaysia posted a loss of 405.3 million ringgit (\$110.9 million) for the year that ended June 30, 1997. after making a one-time provision for losses at its Wernhley unit and for work on the postponed \$5.3 billion Bakun hydroelectric dam project, on which it was the main developer.

Pertamina, Indonesia's state-owned oil company, expects its oil imports to fall 50 percent by year's end as the slowing economy cuts domestic demand, according to reports in a Jakarta financial newspaper.

• Indonesia plans to ratify a number of International Labor Organization conventions on workers' rights, including ILO Convention No. 105 on the abolition of forced labor, No. 111 on employment and occupational discrimination, and No. 138 on the minimum age of workers, Manpower Minister Theo Sambuaga said after meeting President Suharto.

Bowater Inc. will buy Halla Pulp & Paper Co.'s Daebul newsprint mill in South Korea for about \$175 million. Bowater said the mill, which opened in 1996, had an annual production capacity of about 250,000 metric tons of recycled

 Japan Air Lines Co. forecast a parent-company net profit for the current financial year of 14 billion yen (\$109 million). reflecting a switch to more lucrative routes in China, Europe and the United States. The profit, which is more than analysts are expecting for JAL, would contrast with its estimated net loss of 97 billion yen for the year that ended March 31.

Seiyu Ltd., a major Japanese chain-store operator, expects to report a group net loss of 59.5 billion yen for the year that ended in February because of its debt-ridden finance units.

 Japan's private-sector machinery orders fell 17.9 percent in February from a year earlier, compared with a 4.7 percent year-on-year decline the previous month.

• China will contribute \$400 million in standby loans to Indonesia through the International Monetary Fund to help revive the country's ailing economy.

### Suharto Vows to Honor IMF Pact RUPIAH:

ficial said Monday.

\*Congriled by Our Staff From Despotches JAKARTA - President Subarto on Monday pledged to implement new economic reform proposals and appealed to Indonesians not to turn to violence amid the country's monetary crisis.

Mr. Suharto made his comments as the rupiah hit a twomonth high, buoyed by fa-vorable financial-market reaction to an accord reached with the International Monetary Fund last week. The rupiah closed Monday

in Jakarta at 7,550 against the

the dollar.

with the belp of international agencies and friendly govern-ments and said, "We are go-family and some associates." ing to implement them con-sistently." The new accord with the IMF revived a \$43 worst economic crisis in more than 30 years.

dollar, compared with Fritween Mr. Suharto's govern-day's close of 8,100 rupiah to ment and the Fund broke down amid suspicions that Mr. Suharto said reform Jakarta was not keeping its to policies had been formulated promises to make changes that could burt the business interests of the president's

billion resone package for the the Washington-based Fund. world's fourth most populous In return, the IMF bowed to nation, which is suffering its Indonesian demands to main-

Two earlier agreements be-

The plant was to bave been handed

Indonesia agreed to carry out sweeping reforms according to a timetable laid down by tain at least temporarily, subsidies on some foods and other basic items. (AP, Bloomberg)

did with STAR TV.

Water Resources Ministry official transmission lines across the Himsaid. But he added that the U.S. comalayas to supply power to China.

monitor the regional power market. over 10 Nepal after 50 years.

Continued from Page 11

million of agricultural products to Indonesia, according to Commerce Department figures. In 1997 that

pected to fare better.
"The independents are go-

companies. "So far, the phone companies are still in the best position in each market," he said.

### U.S. Firms Hit

United States exported \$888

of American consumer-orifresh fruit, poultry and beef. would drop by at least half and probably more. Until the crisis began, Indonesia had been the United States' second-largest Asian market for apples and its eighth-largest market for

number dropped 8.7 percent, to \$211 million, largely be-cause of a drop-off at year's end because of the crisis. An agricultural analyst here estimated that this year, sales ented products, including

grapes.

The restaurant industry is considered particularly vulthe same quick success as be nerable, with one analyst pre-He may face an uphill dicting that "10 to 15 percen battle gaining distribution, said Kaushik Shridharani of of the restaurants are going to close down." Franchises and cbains such as McDonald's Salomon Smith Barney Inc. in Hong Kong, particularly if be limits himself to cable, Wendy's, Planet Hollywood and Hard Rock Café are exwhich does not have the ubi-

quitous network of telephone ing to be hit harder," the analyst said. "They really don't have any idea bow to re-

#### II: Scion Bets on Satellite-Based Internet Service The Web may be world-wide, Mr. Li said, but its con-Analysts who follow Pacific Century, however, are skeptical that Mr. Li will have

### Continued from Page 11

wires to subscribers, whose bomes would be outfitted with modems - allowing them to receive the service of the information on the Inover their televisions or personal computers. Intel, which owns 40 per-

cent of the venture, is developing the broadband technology that will enable Mr. Li to own languages, Mr. Li said. It is a strategy he used successfully with entertainment prospections and cable. Typic-gramming at STAR TV, when gramming at STAR TV, when satellites and cable. Typically, satellite services are constrained by a lack of true twoway communication; they generally require subscribers to send commands back to the Internet by a regular phone But Pacific Century plans to

beam data to cable operators, who would store it in computers attached to the cable network. Rather than interacting with a satellite, subscribers would be sending and receiving data over the cable lines. For the moment, Intel has limited its investment to \$10 million, according to executives familiar with the deal,

but may increase it to \$50 million — still a modest wager for a company of Intel's size - if the market pans out 1) That, however, is a big "if." While Hong Kong and other Asian cities have no shortage of Internet service providers, cybertechnology has come to Asia more slowly

than it has to the United States and Europe. Fewer than 6 million people in Asia roam the World Wide Web, compared with 19.2 million in the United States, a stady by Salomon Smith Barney Inc. found. Subtract Wapan from the total, and Asia has an Internet population of 1.3 million — in a region of nearly 3 billion people.

tent is still overwhelmingly in English and focused mainly on the United States. "Most ternet is of interest to Americans - face it," he said. But his service will package

and store information aimed at specific audiences in their own languages, Mr. Li said. It viewers who had subsisted on a diet of Western fare were suddenly offered films in Mandarin and music videos featuring Indian, Chinese and Korean performers. In just three years, STAR TV's five channels attracted 50 million households in 38 countries.

Two years from now, when Intel completes the development process, Mr. Li will start selling the service to cable operators from Taiwan to Thailand and from India to Indonesia. They will be mostly the same operators who signed up for STAR TV in the early 1990s.

EUROPA : \* \* \* \* Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held at the Company's registered office c/o
Hemisphere Fund Managers,
Genesis Building, George Town,
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

on 23rd April 1998 at 10:00 a.m. All shareholders are invited to attend or to appoint o proxy to attend. Information: Carol Minores. Europe Funds Limited Tel: (441) 295-9166

### SARAKREEK HOLDING N.V. **Amsterdam**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders at Sarakreek Holding N.V. will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 1998 at 2.30 p.m. of the RAI Congrescentrum, Europaplein 8, 1078 GZ Amsterdam.

#### THE AGENDA INCLUDES:

Annual Report of the Board of Management over 1997.
 Establishment of the 1997 annual Report and Accounts
 Discharge of the Supervisory Board and the Board of

Appointment to the Board of Management Installation of a Committee of Shareholders Designation of the Board of Management as the authorised corporate body in resolve to issue shares and/or to limit or exclude priority rights

Authorisation of the Board of Management to acquire, on

behalf of the Company, shares in the Company

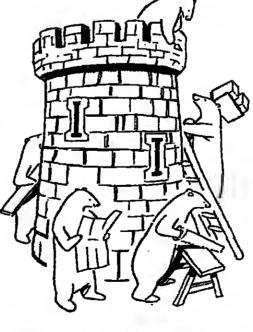
The complete agenda for this meeting, as well as the 1997 Annual Report and Accounts and information on the proposed candidate for the Board of Management are available and can the Company's head office, Amsterdamsestratives 418, 3744 MA Banra, The Netherlands and also at: the ABN AMRO Bank

N.V. Herengracht 597, Amsterdam. To the able to attend the meeting, Shareholders must deposit their shares at the offices of the above mentioned bank not later than April 23, 1998. The deposit receipt will render entrance to the meeting

Amsterdam, april 10, 1998

The Supervisory Board

### Our client commitment Professionalism. Service. Continuity. Maybe it's because we have built up the professionalism



needed to enhance long-term returns for our clients. Or because we emphasize personal client service based on mutual trust. Or because we have been successful Swiss-based international money managers since 1890. For these and other sound reasons, investors around tha globe rely on Julius Baer to anticipate and meet their investment management needs: in private banking par excellence, institutional asset management, brokerage, and investment funds.

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The Fine Art of Private Banking

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PAGE 16 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1998 7.70 NASDAQ Die Yid PE 1005 High Low Latest Cirgo 12 Month
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# SPORTS

# WORLD ROUNDUP O'Meara Birdies Final Hole to Win the Masters

#### **Cell Awaits Maxwell**

BASKETBALL Vernon Maxwell of the Charlotte Hornets was scheduled to turn himself in Monday to begin a 90-day sentence in a 1995 marijuana possession case, said a spokesman for the Harris County Sheriff's Department in Houston.

County officials had asked North Carolina police to arrest Maxwell after a warrant was issued Tuesday. The Hornets said the team under-stood Maxwell could resolve the matter after the season.

'There's no bond, no appeal,' said John Holmes, a Harris County district attorney. "He owes the state of Texas 90 days. We're not running a hotel. It's not, 'Come in when it's convenient.'

Maxwell was not at practice Monday. A Hornets official said he had gone to Texas.

#### **Bobbyjo's Grand Victory**

RACING Bobbyjo, an 8-1 chance ridden by Paul Carberry for his father. Tommy, won the Irish Grand National on Monday. Bobbyjo jumped the last fence with topweight Papillon (20-1), the moun) of Ruby Walsh, 18, and battled to a half-length victo-

#### Stoichkov a Hit in Asia

SOCCER Hristo Stoichkov, the Bulgarian star, scored the only goal as Al Nasr of Saudi Arabia beat Samsung Suwon of South Korea, 1-0, in Riyadh on Monday to win the Asian Cup Winners Cup. Stoich-kov is on loan to the Saudi

#### Pierce Outlasts Martinez

TENNIS Mary Pierce, the runnerup the last two years, beat Conchita Martinez of Spain 6-7 (8-10), 6-0, 6-2 on Sunday in the final of the Bausch & Lomb Championships at Amelia Island, Florida.

#### Texas Appoints Barnes

BASKETBALL Rick Barnes, who took Clemson to three straight NCAA lournaments, was introduced as the University of Texas coach Monday. Barnes replaces Tom Penders, the winningest coach in the program's history. Penders left after his players complained about him. He has received a setilement of about \$850,000. (AP).

#### A Sensitive Topic

A presidential town hall meeting intended to smooth race relations has ruffled Hispanic activists. The Houston chapter of the

League of United Larin American Citizens complained Sunday about the makeup of a panel for a forum Tuesday on race and sports.

Felipe Lopez, a baskethall player at St. John's University in New York, is the only Hispanic on the I l-member panel, which also includes President Bill Clinton and nine sports figures — six hlacks and three whites.

"So we're one joken," said Johnny Mara, spokesman for the league's Houston chapter. "It just shows you the lack of sensitivity on the issue, and that's what the forum is all abou - racism in America.

ESPN, the cable sports network, which chose the panel, announced the selection of Lopez on Sunday. after league officials wrote to Clinton. Chris LaPlaca, an ESPN spokesman, said Lopez agreed Saturday 10 be a panelist. .

# Couples and Duval Tie for 2d;

By Leonard Shapiro
Washington Post Service

AUGUSTA, Georgia — Mark O'Meara had said only the day before that it did not really matter to him if he never won a major championship, that his life as a professional golfer would be complete no matter what happened among the teeming masses, the gentle hreezes and the whispering pines of Augusta National.

But shortly after 7 P.M. Sunday night, O'Meara made one last 20-foot (6-meter) birdie putt at the 405-yard 18th hole to win the 62d Masters by one shot over his playing partner, Fred Couples, and David Duval, solidifying his reputation as one

of the game's finest practitioners.

A few minutes later, O'Meara's young friend Tiger Woods, the defending champion, beamed broadly as he draped a green jacket over his Orlando neighbor's shoulders, telling O'Meara,
"You deserve it, Mark."

Never again will O'Meara, 41, the 1979 U.S. Amateur champion and a 14time winner on the Professional Golfers' Association tour, have to answer all those questions about the absence of a major professional title on his gaudy resumé. Asked why it took so long to win a major. He replied: "Hey, listen, if 1 knew, I would obviously have solved

the problem."

O'Meara earned this championship
the hardest way possible, coming from
two shots off the lead at the start of play and trailing by three to Duval — a four-time winner over the last seven months with four holes to play. But O'Meara birdied three of his final four holes, including the last two, to finish with a round of 67 and a 9-under total of 279.

That provided a one-shot victory over Duval, who had posted a brilliant 67 and was already finished, and Couples, who shot 70, just when it appeared a threeman playoff was about to take place in the fading twilight hours.

O'Meara said that before he made the putt at 18, he thought to himself, "This is what it's all about. This is what you

to get a better view, then roared in nament can be mine. approval when it went down, ending one. And so he did. of the more memorable final rounds in

this tournament's storied history.

In addition to producing a popular or champion in a fabulous stretch finish between a half-dozen men, there was also the stirring saga of Jack Nicklaus to savor and to celebrate.

The six-time Masters champion stalked this course as if he were a man half his 58 years and rewarded the largest and most vocal galleries of the tournament with a hreathtaking round of 6g that earned him a share of sixth place with David Toms, who shot 64-283

playing much earlier in the day. Jim Furyk shot a final-round 6g and was in fourth place at 281, with Paul

Azinger shooting 70-282 for fifth.
"If it is my last round at Augusta,"
Nicklaus said, "I couldn't have had a nicer way to go out. Obviously, I would have liked to have about three shots lower, hut that's still a pretty nice way to

The sonic boom accompanying each of Nicklaus's four birdies on the front nine holes — including a 40-foot chip-in at the 360-yard third hole after he barely missed a 12-footer for eagle at the 555yard No. 2 - was so loud that Woods, one group ahead, said he and his partner. Davis Love 3d, wanted to play faster just so they would not be interrupted in



caliber have ever explored His ball hit an overhanging pine hranch and careened onto a dirt road. Couples somehow managed to hit a heroic sand wedge over the trees and out onto the fairway and had only 162 yards to get to the green, usually a routine shot until he admitted "I may have panicked

a little bit." 'It was a 7-iron shot, and we talked about just hitting a 6-iron out of there," he said. "It's very hard to do that when you know yon have too much club. I tried to hit it higher and easier and it just

went in the creek. Creek, a watery grave for so many past Masters contenders, and his ball took one bounce and plunked into the water about a foot from the edge. The ball was in too deep to even think about hitting from there, so Couples moved back, hit his fifth shot onto the green and needed two putter from 25 feet to full to 6 under two putts from 25 feet to fall to 6 under, two shots behind Duval.

Though he eagled the 15th with a magnificent 190-yard 6-iron that stopped a foot from the cup, Couples missed hirdie putts of 18 feet and 10 feet at the 16th and 17th and gave himself no chance for birdie when he drove into the fairway hunker at 18.

Duval shot 33 on the back nine. He made hirdies at both the 13th and 15th holes, hut he also has a bogey at 170yard 16th. He then missed a hirdie putt at the 18th.

And that was the opening O'Meara

play golf for. I've got it in my hands, why not finish it off? I looked at the putt.

The California native — who lives a the first time and it looked like a hreak to few streets over from Woods in a galed the left. My thought was try to get it on Orlando golf enclave — said that after line and give it a chance to go in. " making par at the 16th, he told his caddy When putter touched hall, thousands walking toward the 17th tee, "I can all around the green rose from their scates" hirde the last two holes and this tour-



That would be the infamous Rae's Mark O'Meara celebrating his first major Tour victory after a 20-foot putt on Augusta National's 18th hole. -

### A Modest Winner With Superstar Fans

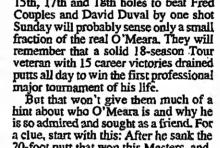
Washington Post Service

UGUSTA, Georgia — Shy, sly Mark O'Meara barely celebrated when he won the Masters. But you can bet that, wherever they were. Ken Griffey Jr., Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods - and many other famous names - were yelling for their buddy.

Few people in sports are better liked by those who know them, yet less known hy the general public than the modest O Meara. Even here at the Masters when O'Meara went to dinner this

week, a fan repeatedly called him by the name of another professional golfer: "Hey, Mark McCumber."
"I'm Mark O'Meara, not Mark McCumber" said O'Meara, who, of course, immediately gave an ohliging autograph. "I get mistaken a lot for McCumber. And Tom Lehman, too, I don't know why." om Lehman, too. I don't know why.

That's O'Meara's sneaky humor: All three are balding, lumpy, fortyish and almost deliberately glamourless.



in a stunning blink, avoided what had seemed like a near-certain three-way playoff with Couples and Duval, O'Meara threw both arms in the air. faced a short putt for a par to clinch a

tration. Yes, O'Meara and Couples have "If it had been me, I'd have been jumping and running around," said

Something about O'Meara attracts others. He seems to have little ego, yet has great pride. He is funny, hut not at anyone else's expense. He's fifth on the all-time PGA Tour money list and has played on five Ryder Cup teams, yet he has consistently reined in his travel schedule in recent years so that he can

Others, who have far more fame and talent than O'Meara, sense that he has something of unmeasurable and undefinable value. That's why he is often the "fourth" when Woods, Jordan and

"He's one of the greatest guys you'll meet," said Griffey not long ago, adding that O'Meara is usually the one playing the mind games, pressing the bets, telling the wise-guy stories and then making a long putt on the 18th to win the serious coin.

"You think you're doing O.K. until

Vantage Point/Thomas Boswell

"Now, maybe people will recognize me as Mark O'Meara," he said after winning the Masters.

Those who saw O'Meara birdie the 15th, 17th and 18th holes to beat Fred

20-foot putt that won this Masters, and,

But he did nothing else. Couples still share of second place. And O'Meara did

been close for 20 years. Couples. "But you saw him. That's the

kind of guy he is. spend time with his two young children.

Griffey play golf together.

the 19th hole when Mark adds it all up;" says Griffey. "Then he's cleaned you

Woods, as the previous champion, presented the Masters green jacket to O'Meara on Sunday. Some might have expected a moment of schmaltz. After all, from the day Woods turned pro. O'Meara has showed him the ropes and been his confidant. O'Meara knew better

than to expect sentiment from Woods.
"We played a practice round together and I hirdied the last three holes." said O'Meara grinning. "Tiger said, 'I can't believe you always beat me.
"I told him, 'Somebody has to.'

As Woods pur the green jacker on O'Meara; the youngster whispered."
'Now you're the champ. So, you gotta' give me strokes."

O'Meara responded: "Hold the jacket lower, kid. I'm 41. I can't raise my

Sports fans are fascinated by the such as Jordan, Griffey and again on Sunday, Nicklaus, who shot a 68 to finish sixth at the age of 58. The illusion of superhuman ability

through games is a compelling image: For example, the crowds were full of glee when Nicklaus hit a 340-yard drive-well past the U.S. Open champion

Yet perhaps we should spend more time studying the O'Mearas. Couldn't we learn far more from those whose limits are so much more akin to our own?

"I don't have any desire to trade. places with Tiger. Or Griffey, Jordan or any of those superstars," O'Meara said. The sacrifices they have to make - as athletes and as people - are more than most people understand.

"You need to be who you are. I want to be a good player, a good father, a good husband and take care of my friends. That's what my father taught me. Be the best that you can be and have a normal lifestyle. You can't ask for more than that

"To win the Masters," he said: laughing. "that's the icing on the cake. I just hope they get my name right on the trophy.

rers 34. Barnsley 34: Crystal Palace 26. FRENCH CUP

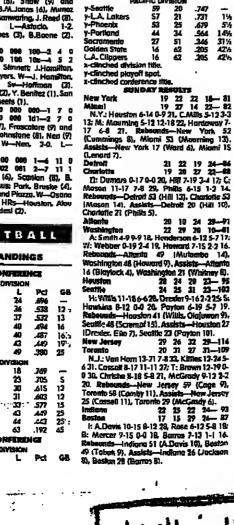
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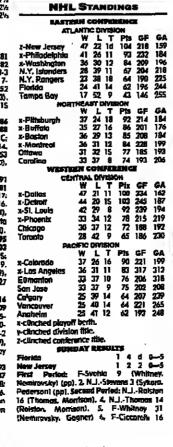
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New York





Phoenix 39 31 35 24—129
Vancouver 1d 30 35 22—104
P: McCloud 11-15 0-0 25, McDyoss 10-15 3S 23, Chopman 8-11 1-2 21; V: Domiets 10-16

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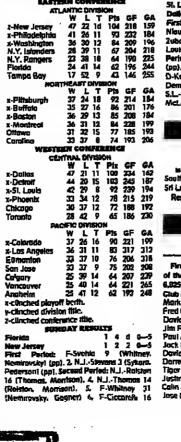
2-2 23. Abdur-Rohlm 7-181-1 15. Rehound Phoenix 38 (McCloud 8), Vancouver (Massenburg 12). Assists—Phoenix

Fred Couples throwing his putter after dropping two strokes on No. 13.

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2-New Jersey	47		1d	104			Niev
x-Philodelphia	41		11	73			2ubo
x-Washington	36	30	12	84			Louis
N.Y. Islanders		39		67			
N.Y. Rangers		38		64	190 196		Perk
Florida	17	41 52	9	62 43			(PP).
Tempa Bay	THEA				146	233	D-Ke
MOH	W	Ľ	T	Pis	GF	GA	Dem
x-Plitsburgh	37		18	92		184	S.L
x-Buffalo	35		16	86		176	McL
x-Boston	36	29		85		184	
x-Montreal	36		12	84	228	199	-
Ottowo	31		is	77	185	193	
Corolino	33	37	8	74	193	206	
	EN C	ON	۲Ď	ENG		_	
	TITAL						
	₩		T	Pix	GF	GA	
x-Dalks	47	21	11	100	234	162	is.
x-Detroit	44			103	245	187	South
x-S1. Louis	42	27	В	92	239	194	5ri Lc
x-Phoenix	33	34	12	78	215	219	Res
Chicago	30	37	12	72	168	192	
Toronio	28	42	9	65	186	<b>73</b> 0	
PA	CIFIC	DIV	SIO				-
	₩	L	T		GF	GA	
x-Colorado	37		16	90	221	199	
x-Los Angeles	36	31	11	83	317	312	
E0monton	33		10	76	<b>206</b>	3)6	
San Jase	33		9	75	202	208	Fire
Calgary	25	39	14	64	207	239	of the
Vancouver	25			64	221	265	6,925
Anaheim	25	41	12	62	193	248	Chub i
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y-clinched division	en titik	2					Fred (
z-clinched confe	wice	niik	9.				David
SUN	DAY	RE	SUL	15			Jim F
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(Reiston, Metri	son).	5.	, F	Wh	iney	31	Calin !
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CRICKET

GOLF

THE MASTERS

F	Auckland Blues 47. New South Wales Ward- tans 25
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retnnings Sunday res, played on the sta Nedonal Golf 74-76-88-47-279 69-70-71-70-289 71-68-74-67-289 71-72-67-70-782 75-72-76-769-783 75-72-76-789-783 76-71-67-49-783 76-71-67-49-783 76-71-67-49-783 76-71-67-49-783 76-71-67-49-783 76-71-77-285 70-72-71-72-285	Derby 4. Bolton 0 Liverpool 2. Crystal Polace 1 Liverpool 2. Crystal Polace 1 Newcostie 2, Bornsley 1 Sheffield Wednesday 1 West Ham 1 Toftenham 1, Coventry 1 Wimbledon 0, Everton 0 Blockburn 1, Arsenal 4 STANDINGS: Manchester United 67 polnts; Arsenal 64, Liverpool 58, Chelsea 54, Leeds United 54: Blockburn Powers 51; Derby County 49, West Ham United 69; Aston Visia AB, Covenity City 45, Leicester City 44: Southampion 42: Wimbledon 41, Sheffined Wednesday 41, Newcostie United 39: Ever- ton 38, Toftenham Holspur 36: Ballon Won-

Paris St Germain 1, En Avant Guia SPANISH FIRST DI Espanyol 2. Tenerife d Madrid 56; Real Sociedad 55; Mallorca 55; 74-74-69-70-287
72-76-68-72-289
74-74-70-70-288
72-73-72-72-289
74-76-69-70-289
77-71-70-71-289
72-72-74-71-290 madra Sc. Real Sociedad SS, Molloca SS, Celta Vigo S4, Althelia: Bibboo S4, Althelia: Bibboo S4, Althelia: Modrid SD, Real Bellia SD, Valencia 48, Espanyol 46; Valtadalid 42; Departivo Coruna. 42; Roal Zerogoza 41; Salamanca 38, Rochigs Sunfander 38; Orleda 37; Merida 36; Cornel Postela 34, Tenerife 34; Sparting Gijon 12.

ASIAN CUP WINNERS CUP 73-74-71-72-290
72-74-77-72-291
75-75-71-71-292
75-75-71-71-292
75-75-71-71-293
71-74-73-293
71-74-75-294
71-76-75-70-294
76-74-72-72-72-73
74-74-74-296
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75-73-74-74-296
75-73-74-74-296 Al Nasr 1, Sanssung Sowon 0 76-74-72-78\_20

TENNIS Bausch a Lomb Champ SUNDAY, IN AMELIA ISLAND, FLORIDA . . FINAL MOTY PIETCE (A), FIRINGE, def. Concisto Aurifinez (6), Spain, 6-7 (8-10), 6-0, 6-2 TRANSITIONS 74-76-76-75-301 77-72-78-75-302 CASSRALL GAKLAND-Agreed to terms with 18 Jason

GARLAND—Agreed to terms with 18 Joson Giombion 3 year contract extension.

SRATTLE—Activated LHP Jeff Fossers from 15-day disabled list, Designated RHP Jim Buillinger for assignment.

MATIONAL LEAGUE
MONTRE 4L—PUTRHP Mike Moddox on 15-day disabled list. Recalled LHP Steve Kine (from Ottawa, PCL ST. LOUIS—Activated RHP Mott Maris Irom disabled list. Dationed RHP Braden Irom disabled list. Dationed RHP Braden

disabled list Optioned RHP Bruden
ler to Memphis, PCL

RASKETRALL WOLENS HATCHAL BASKETBALL ASS WREA—Signed C Lostle Johnson NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

NHL—Suspended Phoenix RW Rick Tocchel mdefinitely, pending hearing, for highsticking incident of St. Louis on April 11.

CALGARY—Recalled G Tyrone Garner from HOCKEY

Oshawa, OHL COLLEGE

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INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1998

**SPORTS** 

rding to officials,
nce 1991, the aerospace industry
divided its political contribution
the between Democrats and Reput thy herween Democrats and Repairs. In the same period, however and Hughes tilled toward the sociatic Party, giving \$2.5 million. bemocratic candidates and cand Semocratic candidates and causes
S1 million to the Republicans.
drainistration officials say the continuous played no role in the decisions
crimit China to launch U.S. sate.

The government has to balance the government has to balance the risk in not lenting America parties get their satellites launched to Chinese, which would reduce out and the inhance of the satellites and the inhance of the satellites. te Chinese, which would reduce on the inherent sof technology transfer, said the inherent soil technology transfer, said the State Department of the S I strict safeguards, and we are & and to investigate and use our last revent that possibility. he criminal investigation of Highs

Loral has its roots in 1989 when cuons were imposed after the ma e ot pro-democracy demonstrator Tiananmen Square, requiring a sidential waiver for satellite lands Eleven such waivers have been ned by Mr. Chinton and his preessor, George Bush. out in late 1902, U.S. mielligene

overed that Chinese companies by missile technology to Pakista ing tensions in the subcontinent the first months of Mr. Clinton adency. Democrais and Republic o in Campress pressed the admition to take action. Mr. Chillon a nied with sanctions that barred US spanies from sending military good as of the Chinese concerns invoked to Pakistan ceal. The move had be et of halting several pending mi west topewal-landsching company as of the companies under function he sanctions stemming from the shall were terred in late 1994& to promotion to cure missile sales in r countries St.P. the satellite in the first to a shield a major of the South 1985. Mr. Armstrong ser her letter to Mr Chaton, signed is Serwante, Line Chairman a e trut the Commerce Department and hearettee the printing licensing arm for spicials expons an ain chicality endid

we defined in them y afterted national 7.45 that aim; had charmous comor other lattions. The business so were established as highly conост дво Витореал с прашескае the as willing to take advantage of has a financial services. Without the area, U.S. a impanies find long sites got their surplistes mis orbit The of a Martinge of rockets ed imagest beganning terpepak Brighest and streets to the Comment

ince the inquiry began Beingmi bington have been exploraging space a movement to Last fall hetions Report visites the limit and the ment of the Change in June, the B attacts in a special of a product again.

LI TAST & AFECA

# ina Policy For English Laggards The Source Stip

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Newcastle Beats Barnsley While Spurs Slip

LONDON — Alan Shearer scored a late goal Monday to give Newcastle United a 2-1 victory over Barnsley, another team struggling at the foot of the English Premier League.

At the end of the season the bottom three teams will be relegated to the first division. For much of the season the eams promoted to the Premier League fast summer - Barnsley, Bolton Wanherers and Crystal Palace - have occuried the bottom three places, but Bolton and Barnsley have revived recently, closing the gap on the three big clubs immediately above them: Neweastle, Everton and Tottenham Hotspur.

On Monday, with the score 1-1 and four minutes to play in New-castle, Shearer rose above the Barnsley defense to crash home a header from Rob Lee's cross ball. Andreas Andersson, a Swedish in-

contional striker, had earlier put Newstle ahead; it was his first goal since he left AC Milan in January to join Neweastle. But Jan Aage Fjortoft, a Nor-wegian international, evened the score for Barnsley. In north London, meanwhile, Tot-

tenham was heading for a well-deserved victory over Coventry City with four minntes to play.
Spurs dominated the game and Covernry's stubborn defense finally cracked

tihen Nicola Berti, an Italian international, rammed home a header from a corner by David Ginola in the 68th minnte. It was Berti's third goal since joining Spurs from Inter Milan. In the 86th minute, Dion Duhlin scored

for Coventry to make the score 1-1. Crystal Palace conceded a goal five minutes from the finish, losing, 2-1, in Liverpool Oyvind Leonhardsen gave Liverpool, in third place in the Premier League, the lead. The south Londoners hit back with a goal by Marcus Bent. But David Thompson scored the winning goal on the 85th-minute.

In another meeting of Liverpool and south London, Wimbledon and Everton drew, 0-0, in London.

Bolton was sunk before half time at Derby County. Derby which had not scored in four matches won, 4-0. Deon Burton, a Jamaican international, scored twice. Paulo Wanchope, a Costa Rican, and Francesco Baiann, an Italian, each scored once before halftime.

Arsenal continued its surge with a 4l victory at Blackburn in the evening match. The victory narrowed the gap between Arsenal and Manchester United, the Premier League leader, to one point. Arsenal has played two fewer games.

Dennis Bergkamp returned from a three-match suspension and scored after 75 seconds. He then created goals for Ray Parlour in the seventh and 15th ninutes. Nicolas Anelka, a 19-year-old Frenchman, completed the rout with a coolly taken goal on 42 minutes. Anelka also scored twice when Arsenal beat Newcastle on Saturday.

Kevin Gallacher scored the Blackburn goal early in the second half.



header Monday against Gary Breen of Coventry. The match ended 1-1.

### Chris Armstrong, a Tottenham Hotspur attacker, left, jumping for a

### No Relief in Sight When Mariners Call on Bullpen

BOSTON - Lou Piniella didn't want name names. But here they are: Paul Spoljaric, Bobby Ayala, Mike Timlin, Tony Fossas and Heathcliff Slocumb. Seattle's hullpen blew another game in Boston on Sunday as Jim Leyritz hit a

game-tying homer and Reggie Jefferson

singled in the winning run in the ninth inning, giving the Red Sox an 8-7 victory over the Mariners.

BASEBALL HOUNDUP

"I'm not going to knock anybody."
Piniella said. "These gnys are giving
the effort and it will get better." . Scanle's relievers blew 27 saves last

year and gave away Friday's game despite a lead of 7-2 in the ninth. "On Sunday, Jeff Fassero, the Seattle stanter, pitched well in his 1998 debut. But he gave up Leyritz's first homer of the day; a two-run shot that tied the

make that dreaded call to his bullpen. Spoljaric came on and the next batter, Troy O'Leary, homered. Spoljaric also gave up Mo Vaughn's ninth-inning grand slam to blow the series opener on

Ayala hlew a 5-4 lead in the seventh and Fossas allowed a double to the only batter he faced. In all, Seattle threw away leads of 1-0, 3-1, 5-4 and 7-6, wasting two homers by Alex Rodriguez and one by Ken Griffey, to extend its

losing streak to five games.
Protecting a 7-6 lead in the ninth, Slocumb struck out Vaughn, hut Leyritz hit a 3-2 pitch into the screen above the

Green Monster. O'Leary walked, took second on a wild pitch and scored when Jefferson, hitting for Mark Lemke, singled to center.

nkees 7, Athleties 5 In New York, the Yankees completed a three-game sweep and won their fifth straight as Bernie Williams singled home the goahead run in the sixth and Darryl Strawberry hit his third homer. New York is 6since it started the year at 0-3.

Devil Rays 4, White Sox 1 In Chicago, Wilson Alvarez pitched eight strong in-nings, Dave Martinez homered and Roberto Hernandez got a save as the three former White Sox led Tampa Bay to victory. Alvarez took a shutout into the eighth and beat Chicago for the second time in a week.

Rangers 3, Blue Jays 1 In Arlington, Texas, Kevin Elster hit a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning for the

Twins 7, Royals 2 In Kansas City, Pat Meares hit two home runs and Boh Tewksbury allowed four hits in six innings for Minnesota. Meares hit solo shots in the seventh and ninth innings. Tewksbury improved to 4-0 at Kauffman Stadium. Rick Aguilera struck out Dean Palmer with the bases loaded in the ninth for his second save.

In the National League: Dodgers 7, Astros 6 Raul Mondesl hit a two-run homer with two outs in the bottom of the 10th to let Los Angeles beat Houston.

Billy Wagner, the Astros' reliever who surrendered a game-tying single to pinchhitter Mike Devereaux with two outs in the ninth, was given a chance to win after Moises Alou led off the top of the 10th for New York and Mel Rojas pitched with a home run off Antonio Osuna.

But Wagner walked Mike Piazza with one ont and Mondesi drove a 2-2 pitch deep to left-center field for his second home run of the season. Mondesi entered the game hitless in

his previous eight at-bats with runners in scoring position, but singled in a run in the sixth inning that narrowed Houston's lead to 6-4. Reds 10, Rockies 4 Colorado lost its

eighth straight as Bret Boone hit his first career grand slam. Pete Harnisch shut out host Colorado

through five innings, dropping the Rockies to 0-6 at home. Chris Stynes scored a career-high four runs, homering to lead off the game. Padres 4, Diamondbacks 2 In San Diego, Ken Caminiti homered in his

fourth straight game as the Padres won their seventh straight — their longest winning streak since 1991. Andy Sheets hit a two-run homer, his first hit for the Padres, and pitcher Joey Hamilton survived home runs by Travis

Braves 3, Phillies 2 Tom Glavine allowed one unearned run and six hits in eight innings as Atlanta won in Phil-adelphia. Ryan Klesko homered for the Braves, who stopped Philadelphia's five-game winning streak.

Lee and Yamil Benitez with the hases

Mots 6, Browers 4 In Milwaukee, John Olerud hit a two-run homer in the seventh and reliever Turk Wendell (3-0) won again despite giving up a three-run homer to Jose Valentin that made it 4-4 in the sixth. Butch Huskey also bomered two innings for his first save.

Expos 4, Cubs 1 Brad Fullmer, a Montreal rookie, went 4 for 4 and drove in four runs as the host Expos sent Chicago pitcher Kerry Wood to a loss in his major-league debnt. Giants 2, Cardinals 1 John Frascatore

the St. Louis pitcher, walked Bill Mueller with the bases loaded and two outs in the ninth, forcing in the go-ahead run in San Francisco. Frascatore walked Charlie Hayes and Darryl Hamilton, then threw four straight balls to Mueller.

In games reported in late editions Monday:

Pirates 7, Marlins 3 In Pittshurgh, Florida lost its 11th consecutive game. since it won March 31 on opening day, Florida has set a team record for consecutive losses, skidding to the worst start ever by a defending champion.

'Our guys are trying. We're just not playing very good,' said Jim Leyland, the Marlins' manager. 'We're not hitting very good. And I'm not managing

very good.
"Obviously, when you're 1-11 and you've lost 11 in a row, it's not very

Orioles 6, Tigors 3 In Detroit, Scott Erickson (3-0) stayed unbeaten with another victory over the Tigers. Erickson, who has a 14-3 record in 21 starts against the Tigers, gave up 11 hits — including Damion Easley's third homer - in 71/2 innings.

Angels 12, Indians 1 Chnck Finley pitched 71/3 shutout innings and Tim Salmon hit two homers and scored five runs as Anaheiro won in Cleveland.

### Knicks Lodge a Protest: Red Light Stole Victory

The New York Knicks asked the National Basketball Association on Mon-day to overturn their loss to Miami, arguing that a malfunctioning red light might have caused a referee to wave off a huzzer-beating basket by Allan Houston of the Knicks. The Heat won, 82-

Televised replays clearly showed Houston's shot leaving his hand 0.2 seconds before the clock expired Sunday night in Miami.

The Knicks' protest consisted of a letter, a videotape and a check for

#### NBA ROUNUUP

\$1,500 — the official fee for filing a protest. They argued that an electronic malfunction - the red light behind their basket lit up with 0.1 seconds remaining - could have caused Delaney to wave off the shot. By claiming a technical malfunction,

the Knicks appeared to be trying to avoid the NBA rule that says: "Regardless of when the horn or red light operates to signify the end of period, the officials ultimately make the final decision whether to allow or disallow a successful field goal."
The frantic finish Sunday began as

New York passed the ball inbounds at midcourt with 4.4 seconds left. Chris Mills took the pass and drove past Alonzo Mourning hut missed a short runner. Charles Oakley missed a tip, and Dan Majerle then slapped the ball in the direction of Houston, who hastily threw up one last attempt at the buzzer.

Referce Boh Delaney immediately signaled that the shot didn't count, and after he conferred briefly with the two

other officials, the ruling stood.

The loss dropped New York into eighth place in the Eastern Conference. Only the top eight teams make the play-

Note 116, Raptors 109 In Toronto, Keith Van Horn scored a season-high 33 points, Kerry Kittles added 31, Sam Cassell had 25, and New Jersey played a perfect final three minutes.

The Nets won their fifth straight to move ahead of the Knicks and into seventh place. Now it is up to New Jersey to stay there and avoid a firstround playoff matchup against the defending champion Chicago Bulls.

Pacers 93, Celtics 87 In Boston, Antonio Davis scored a season-high 28 points, and the Indiana Pacers completed a sweep of the four-game season

"Emotionally, it's the ultimate for me to win in Boston," said Larry Bird, the Indiana coach. "It was a little quieter this time. I knew the first time in would be total chaos and it was."
Indiana gained its fourth straight vic-

tory despite letting a 21-point lead mid-way through the third quarter drop to five with just over two minutes left.

Jalen Rose then took over, hitting a

free throw, a foul-line jumper and a dunk to give Indiana a 93-83 lead with 40 seconds to play.

SuperSonies 103, Rockets 95 In Seattle, Hersey Hawkins scored 20 points, Detlef Schrempf had 16 points and a season-high 15 rebounds, and Gary Payton had 19 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds for the Sonies. and seven rebounds for the Sonics.

Suns 129, Grizzlies 106 In Vanconver, Briosh Columbia, George McCloud scored 25 points as Phoenix won its eighth straight.

Hawks 91, Wizards 81 In Washington, the Atlanta Hawks came back from an l 1-point deficit in the final quarter and left the Wizards on the brink of elimination from the playoff race. Eldridge Recasner came off the

bench to score 10 of his 17 points in the final period, when Mookie Blaylock had eight of his 16. Steve Smith scored 18 for the Hawks, who held the Wizards to two points over the final 6:33.

In a game reported in late editions Monday:

Hornets 88, Pistons 86 In Charlotte, North Carolina, Anthony Mason matched his season high with 29 points and added 14 rebounds and four assists to belp Charlotte snap a four-game losing streak with the victory over De-

### Stars Edge Blues to Close In On Award for Best Record

DALLAS - The Dallas Stars could well be on their way to the President's Trophy for the leagne's hest regular-season record. But they had better beat the Red Wings on Wednesday night.
"We needed the confidence boost.

especially going into the Detroit game," said Jamie Langenhrunner, a Dallas for-

NHLROUNDUP

ward, after the Stars' 4-3 victory over the St. Louis Blues on Sunday night.

The victory gave the Stars a fran-chise-record 105 points and the lead in the race for the best record in the National Hockey League. The New Jersey Devils, who ped Florida 5-5, are one point back at 104, while the idle Red Wings are third at 103. Each team has three games left.

St. Lonis rallied from a two-goal deficit to tie the game at 2-2 in the third period on Steve Duchesne's power-play goal. But a slashing call against SL

THEY CATCH BIG GROSS CATERFILMS LIKE THAT ONE.

Louis's Chris McAlpine 30 seconds later gave Dallas the man advantage. Pat Verbeek capitalized eight seconds into the power play when he converted Sergei Zubov's pass for his 28th tally of the season.

Devils 5, Panthers 5 Brendan Morrison scored at 12:16 of the third period to help New Jersey salvage a tie with visiting Florida. Morrison scored his fourth goal in

five games since his recall from Albany of the American Hockey League on April 2. The rookie blasted a rising shot from the slot past Kirk McLean to close out the scoring in the surprisingly wide-open contest. It was only the third time this season that the defense-minded Devils had allowed five or more goals. Coyotes 2, Blackhawks 1 Jeremy Roenick's unassisted goal with 7:20 left

gave Phoenix a victory in Chicago. Roenick, a former Blackhawk, pounced on a bad pass by a Chicago defenseman, Gary Suter, and ripped a shot past Jeff Hackett to break a 1-1 tie.

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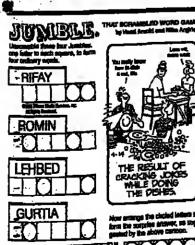
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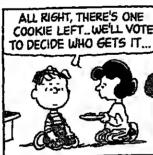
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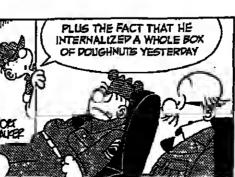
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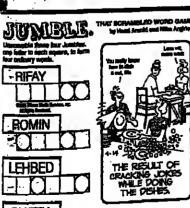
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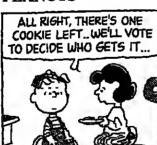
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#### ART BUCHWALD

### The Tobacco War

ASHINGTON — The a means of keeping young battle royal is on. people from smoking. Tobacco interests have de-

of the United States of Amer-

Once again the innocent cigarente. citizen is caught in the middle and is being forced to take

out of curiosity I stopped I don't smoke anymore. in the schoolyard of McLean But for years I was a chain High School and asked a

cigar smoker and a threat to the society in which I lived. When I gave it up 14 years ago, I felt sorry that cigar companies would have my husi-

Buchwald ness no longer - but a lung is a lung is a The hig argument has to do

with taxing cigarettes. The government is sug-

gesting a \$1.10-a-pack tax as

#### Egyptian Museum Bolsters Security

CAIRO - The Egyptian Museum has put into force a new \$3 million security sys- their new young customers in tem to protect its ancient and China."

invaluable contents. The system, which includes video cameras, smoke sensors and metal detectors. smoke?" lasked. was ordered after a 1996 rohbery attempt at the museum, home of the treasures of King Tutankhamen and countless in our mouths hesides our other antiquities from a rich feet." archaeological heritage.

rounded hy electronic rays Would you still spend the which can detect weapons and hurglary attempts." Culture Minister Farouk Hosni said after an inspection.

people from smoking.

The tobacco companies clared war on the government say they can't live with that, But no one knows what price smokers will pay for a

> group of students watching the grass grow on the football field, "How much would you pay for a pack of cigarettes if you had to?"

A young man replied. Two bundred dollars. His friend said, "More. if

they asked."
"Then you don't believe taxing cigarettes will stop

young people from smoking?" "Why should it?" a girl plied. "You only live replied.

So I said, "Do you think the cigarette companies are being treated unfairly by the

anti-smoking forces?"

A boy said, "They're getting the shaft from Congress. hut if they can afford to pay the government \$368 hillion to show their good faith, they can cough np \$516 hillion, particularly if you count all

"Why do young people

Someone responded, "For the same reason older people smoke - to stick something

Suppose it will cost you The museum is now sur- \$300 a carton for cigarettes?

> money The hoy looked up with a smile and said, "Try me." Washington Post Service

### Tough Questions for Spielberg Holocaust Project

By Marc Fisher Bushington Post Service

C TUDIO CITY, California - Past the Universal Studios costume huilding, inside a fenced-off labyrinth of wooden trailers, nearly 200 people toil around the clock on a Steven Spielberg production that might be the richest documentation of history ever attempted.

Spielberg's Shoah Visual History Foundation is scouring the globe for aging sur-vivors of the Holocaust to set their recollections on video, creating a digital archive of firsthand accounts of Germany's drive to exterminate European Jewry.

The foundation is inspired by "Schind-

ler's List," Spielberg's 1993 film about the German industrialist who saved his Jewish workers from the Nazi death machine. In four years of frenzied work it has amassed tapes of 40,766 survivors of the Shoah, according to a "production status" ticker on the project's Weh site; www.vhf.org.

But the path to that achievement has been riddled with hazards and missteps: Historians worry that a Hollywood mind-set has favored production values over historical fidelity. Former employees say a rush to meet Spiel-berg's goal of 50,000 interviews in three years, along with antipathy toward academic experts on the Holocaust, has weakened the foundation's interviews with survivors, crefulness. A yawning gap has opened between the accumulation of testimonies and the de-

velopment of a way to make them available. A former foundation manager, Warren Goldie, said the organization's first executive directors, the movie producers James Moll and June Beallor, "fook what could have been a great nonprofit organization and tried to bend it into a movie-production company for the purpose of advancing their

careers with Spielberg."

And Erik Simon, a former research manager, said: "One hundred years from now. seen as irreplaceable. But there was a period That's what's important." when I was concerned that the foundation was at risk of creating the most thoroughly catalogued, extensively indexed, technologically advanced collection of mediocre interviews ever assembled."

president for the past year, concedes that the contemporaneous accounts. Other academics \$60 million project has had problems in the devote themselves to collecting and analyzrush to meet a weekly quota of 320 interviews ing a relative handful of such accounts, pressin 30 languages in more than 40 countries. But ing witnesses on every detail of their stories.



Michael Berenbaum, head of the Shoah Foundation: "Quantity creates quality."

he says the glitches ultimately won't matter. "There has been a tension here between an academic respect for the material and the ating a massive archive of questionable usefulness. A yawning gap has opened between enhaum, former chief of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's research institute. But in

the end, he says, "quantity creates quality."

"This will be an archive not just of generals and journalists," he added, "hut of Peter the doctor and Chava the baker and Chaim the tailor.

Survivors and their families are, by and large, grateful. "I don't know about how they're operating," says the Washington filmmaker Aviva Kempner, a daughter of survivors. "All I know is, because it was the Shoah Foundation's contribution will be first time, and now we'll have it forever.

Oral histories are a murky hlend of history and memory, wimess accounts that can be blurred, exaggerated or faded by the passage of time. Some historians steer clear of oral rviews ever assembled." history. questioning its accuracy, far pre-Michael Berenbaum, the foundation's ferring to rely on diaries, letters and other

The Shoah Foundation — fueled by unprecedented amhition and Spielberg's celebrity — mines new ground, stockpiling stories from as many survivors as possible

for later generations to examine.

What Spielberg is doing has to be done," says Yehuda Bauer, director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at the Yad Vashern memorial in Israel and one of the world's foremost scholars of the Nazi genocide. "But memory plays tricks on people. Professional academics know what is already known and what is nor known, so they know what to ask. These interviews are being done without any possibility of checking information. So a portion Spielberg, my mother told her story for the of these interviews will not be useful. There are a lot of problems."

Born in 1947 and raised in a Jewish family in which the Holocaust was a constant topic, Spielberg has said that he learned to count by reading the prisoner serial numbers tuttooed on a survivor's arm. Spielberg, who declined to be interviewed, has said his desire to assimilate into American culture distanced him from his faith and its traumatic experience."

It wasn't until his first child was born, in 1985, that Spielberg felt a tug back toward his Jewish tradition. And it was only during

the production of "Schindler's List" that he met with survivors whose stories were so compelling that he decided to collect their

testimonies while they could still be told. Just making and storing copies of hundreds of thousands of tapes requires around-the-clock shifts, millions of dollars of state-of-theart equipment and mountains of digital video-cassenes that cost \$90 each. The foundation's centerpiece is a huge digital video jukebox already filled to capacity with testimonies.

Eventually, five repositories - Yale University, the Holocaust Museum, Yad Vashem, the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles and the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York - are to be linked to the

foundation's archive by fiber-optic cable.

But before testimonies can be used, they must be catalogued. Every testimony must be analyzed word by word to create a detailed and consistent index that researchers can use to find, for example, anything survivors have said about a deportation from a particular town on a certain date. This massive task has proved to be the foun-dation's bane. The first two years of work, in which about 500 interviews were catalogued, had to be scrapped because of tech-

ical and conceptual problems.
Only about 1,000 have been catalogued; the collection will not be made available to the repositories anytime soon.

It is primarily historians who are raising questions. Sid Bolkosky, director of a Holocaust history project at the University of Michigan at Dearborn, helped train Shoah Foundation interviewers and came away distressed that the project was fixated on speed and a Hollywood approach to storytelling.

"All the scholars in the field," he says, told them pretty much the same stuff don't restrict the surviyors to two hours, let them talk, he sure your interviewers are well trained — and they rejected everything, to the last suggestion.'

Beallor, the producer, dismisses criticism of the project's emphasis on speed over

training: "Who cares what the approach is?
We have 40,000 testimonials," she says.
In the end, the foundation will be known not for its founder hut for the people whose stories it has collected. "We were attracted to this project like moths to a flame," says a survivor who worked for the foundation for several years but left disillusioned. "I believed the sacredness of the martyrdom of our parents was going to protect us from the inanity of Hollywood. I was wrong."

#### PEOPLE

L the hit sitcom won't leave him alone. His mother. "She's, director Alain Corneau, it said. afraid I'm going to kill the characters," says David, who returned to produce and write the much-awaited final episode. "Every time I talk to her on the phone, she says, 'Don't kill them. "An estimated 75 million people are expected to tune in on May 14 to see what, if anything, happens to Jerry Seinfeld and his co-stars, Jason Alexander, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Michael Richards.

Norman Mailer probably won't be gening any awards from the National Organization for Women anytime soon. The crusty winner of two Pulitzer Prizes admits he only grudgingly accepts women's liberation. "You get on the shuttle from Boston to New York, and what do you see?" the author tells The New Yorker in its April 20 edition. "You see a group of women wearing tailored suits, carrying their laptop com-puters, and they look like female versions of the men. Asked the duchess accepting the invitation from Rhys-Jones, who how be felt when the women's liberation movement first has been hired to do public relations work for a health club. when they lost India."

The actresses Sigourney Weaver, Winona Ryder, Lena at next month's 51st Cannes Film Festival, the Paris news than 1,000 movies and 4,000 television shows, Di Fabrizio has entitled to all income derived from the exploitation of the paper Journal du Dimanche has reported. The 10-member jury worked with such stars as Elizabeth Hurley and Leonardo recordings following Sept. 29. 1993," the court ruled.

Honey bees attacked Nelson Mandela in the hathroom at his vacation home, repeatedly stinging the South African president. The Independent on Sunday quoted Mandela as saying he was stung "four or five times" on the abdomen and "also in parts that I can't mention."

Sophie Rhys-Jones, the girlfriend of Prince Edward of England, "astonished" the Duchess of York when she asked

her to take part in a publicity stunt showing her being sprayed with water in an empty swimming pool. The Daily Telegraph reported. The duchess, the former wife of Prince Edward's hrother, Prince Andrew, was said to be "amused, if a little

For more than 36 years, Pasquale Di Fabrizio, 71, has served as shoemaker to the stars. Now he's planning to close up his Los Angeles shop and write a book revealing the foot secrets of the Olin and Chiara Mastroianni will be part of the jury lineup famous. During a career in which he provided shoes for more

"HE "Seinfeld" co-creator Larry David says one fan of also will include the French rapper MC Solaar and the DiCaprio and touched "some of the best legs in the world." But with the good comes the bad and the ugly, he says, like the lifts in Michael Douglas's and Burt Reynolds's sboes, and Elizabeth Taylor's "golf-ball-size bunions." Di Fabrizio plans to tell all in his forthcoming book, "The Sole of a

> The British pop singer George Michael has stated openly that be is gay, in an exclusive interview on CNN. The interview followed the singer's arrest for 'engaging in a lewd act' in a Beverly Hills. California, park last week. "I want to say that I have to problem with people knowing that I'm in a relationship with a man right now," Michael said. "I have not been in a relationship with a woman for almost 10 years."

The Kingsmen are going to be paid again for "Louie Louie." The group that recorded the 1963 hit was awarded the rights to the record by a federal appeals court, which agreed that the band ad unfairly missed out on decades of royalties generated by on of the most popular rock songs in history. The Kingsmen signed away rights to "Louie Louie" in 1968 for 9 percent of future licensing fees and profits. They were never paid, however, and in 1993 members of the group finally sued the record companies that now bold the rights to the record. "The Kingsmen are



George Michael during his interview with CNN.



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